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Palestine embassy opens in Riyadh

RIYADH (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat raised the four-colour Palestinian flag on the \$5-million embassy of Palestine in an emotional ceremony Sunday. "Long live the Palestinian revolution. Long live Palestine. Long live Arafat," chanted n crowd of some 500 Palestinians as Arafat kissed the flag, then hoisted it on the sandstone building donated by the kingdom. "We are your soldiers Abn Ammar," they shouted. The Saudi Press Agency later quoted Arafat as saying the embassy was n gift from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to the "children of stones, the nation of stones, the revolution of stones, the "children of stones, the nation of stones, the revolution of stones, the intifada of stones." Prince Salman Ibn Abdul Aziz, governor of Riyadh, initiates of stones. "Prince Saintan for About Aziz, governor of Riyann, said be was praying for the chance "to raise the flag of Sandi Arabia in a liberated, independent Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine," the agency said. Sandi Arabia announced Wednesday that it was granting the PLO office in Riyadh full diplomatic status and its director, Rafik Natsheh, would now rank as an ambassador. The kingdom was one of the first countries to recognise the State of Palestine, proclaimed Nov. 15 by the Palestine National Council.

Volume 14 Number 3974

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 neuce

AROUND THE WORLD...

Arabsat faces problem over Egypt

NICOSIA (R) — The main problem facing the Arab League's space agency Arabsat is Egypt's absence, a Saudi minister was quoted Sunday as saying. Alawi Darwish Kayyal, minister of posts, telegraphs and telephones, told the Qatari daily Al Raya that Arabsat had lost between 25 and 45 per cent of its income because of Egypt's suspension from the Arab League. Asked about the status of Egypt's membership of the space agency, he said without elaborating: "There are certain measures which will be implemented for its return to Arabsat." Arabsat has three French-made satellites in orbit controlled from Sandi Arabia and Tunis for television and telephone services. It plans to launch a second generation of satellites in 1992. Kayyal also said he believed Sandi Arabia had succeeded in limiting what he called the possible dangers from Israel's first home-produced satellite, launched in September. Israel said the Ofek-1 satellite was for technological and scientific projects, but Western European space experts said its main mission would be to spy on the Arab World.

Journalist lailed under Zia to head APP

ISLAMABAD (R) - Prime Minister Benazir Bhntto Sunday named a journalist jailed under the former military regime to head Pakistan's state news agency. Aslam Sheikh was appointed director-general of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP). He replaces Farooq Nisar, who held the post for four and a half years as a nominee of late President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq. Mohammad Afzal Khan, a senior APP journalist, was named the news agency's second in command, a government statement said. Sheikh and Afzal Khan are leading members of Pakistan's Federal Union of Journalists. Both men were jailed by Zia's martial law government during a union campaign for press freedom. APP said the changes were part of a process of democratisation of the media initiated by Bhutto's government.

Iran backs Afghan rebels in Soviet talks

NICOSIA (R) - The start of talks between the Soviet Union and Afghan guerrillas represents a victory for the Mujahedeen, Iranian President Ali Khamenei was quoted Sunday as saying. Tehran Radio said be told Mowlawi Nasrollah Mansour, a Pakistan-based Mujahedeen leader, Saturday that Iran had previously rejected negotiations on the Afghan conflict with other parties. "But we support the recent talks between the Majahedeen and Soviet officials, in which the Mujahedeen take part as representatives of the people of their country, and see this as a victory for all the Mnjahedeen in treaches inside Afghanistan," Khamenei said,

Fourth youth dies in U.S. explosives accident

WASHINGTON (R) — A fourth youth has died after a pipe bomh exploded while teenagers were building it Saturday in the garage at the home of a Brazilian diplomat, police said Sunday. Police said the teenagers had been experimenting with explosives at the home of embassy counsellor Vera Machado in Bethesda, Maryland, a suburb of Washington. Machado's 15-year-old son Gustavo was one of the police said. One American teenager died instantly and two - one American and one Brazilian - died later in hospital. Machado and her husband were asleep at the time. The Washington Post quoted the girlfriend of one of the teenagers as saying the boys, described as intelligent and science-oriented, had a keen interest in explosives. Her boyfriend told her they could make a better bomb than the one that caused the crash of a Pan American airliner in Scotland December 21, killing 270 people.

Scholars urge militants to renounce violence

CAIRO (R) - Egypt's top Muslim clergymen, acting after a government appeal for help to end growing fundamentalist violence, urged hardliners Sunday to renounce force as anti-Islamic. The call by a group of top theologians at Al Azhar, the oldest seat of the Islamie learning, followed a month of violent incidents involving Muslim militants. 'Islam decisively rejects violence, coercion or violation of the rights of others in the name of religion," they said in a statement appealing for dialogue and personasion rather than force. About 10,000 people packed the 1,000-year-old Al Azhar Mosque and thousands more stood outside to hear the statement read by Egypt's leading Muslim scholar, Mohammad Metwalli Al Sharawi. Newspapers have said claudestine groups of fundamentalists, who regard most music, television shows and dancing as blasphemons, are trying to enforce strict Islamic laws in at least one Cairo district and some towns in Upper Egypt.

Thatcher praises other women leaders

LONDON (AP) - Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who in 1979 made history as Europe's first woman prime minister, noted Sunday she is not alone and joked that male politicians may one day come back into fashion. "We're getting more women prime ministers," she said in a television interview, referring to the recent election of Benazir Bhutto as prime minister of Pakistan. "And don't forget... Mrs. Gandhi was a very able, charming, formidable prime minister of India." Thatcher now is the longest-serving leader in the West. Before she came to power, women had already governed in Sri Lanka and Israel. Part of the British leader's tenure in office coincided with that of Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984. "I think male prime ministers one day will come back into fashion," she joked with interviewer David Frost on Britain's Commercial TV-AM channel.

Bomb blast kills five in Punjab

AMRITSAR (AP) — A bomb blast at a Hindn temple killed at least five Snuday, the year's first victims of continuing Sikh militant violence in India's troubled northwestern Punjab state. At least 20 others were injured in the explosion that occurred when Hindus were praying at the shrine in Chawinda Davi town, 32 kilometres east of Amritsar, police and news reports said. Elsewhere in Punjab, at least four others were killed Sunday in Sikh militant violence, Press Trust of India news agency said. According to Chaman Pal Singh, inspector general 6.2 police for Amritsar district where the bomb blast occurred, the explosives were kept in a cloth bag on a bicycle within the temple precincts. The blast killed five people on the spot, while 20 others were miured and removed to hospital.

Soviet paper salutes changes

MOSCOW (R) - The newspaper Izvestia said goodbye to 1988 without regrets Sunday, saying it was not hard to give np one-candidate elections, jammed radio shows and other former staples of Soviet life that were abolished last year. But the government newspaper toasted many changes made during 1988, including the improvement in supplies at liquor stores - after the Kremlin realised its crackdown on alcohol had created a massive network of moonshine distillers. "Let's raise our glasses to it (1988), because among other things it helped us get rid of the queues for this holiday drink," Izvestia's correspondent Yuri Makarov wrote in a rare bit of levity published in the central Soviet press. The article was headlined "Congratulations on the old year." Reviewing the events of 1988, Izvestia said goodhye to West German daredevil pilot Mathias Rust, who was allowed to return home in August after serving 14 months of n four-year sentence for making an unanthorised flight to Red Square. "Auf Wiedersehen Mathias Rust, madcap inspector of our antiaircraft defences," Izvestia said.



A scene from the devastated town of Lockerbie, Scotland, in the aftermath of the Dec. 21 crash of a

Arafat said to have vowed to hunt down Pan Am bombers

caused the crash of a Pan Am airliner in Scotland killing 270 people, according to British

The Sunday Telegraph said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman planned to Sunday Express said. conduct an investigation into Palestinian splinter groups sus-pected of planting a bomh on board the plane.
It added that he had agreed to

of Investigation (FBI).

U.S. official as saying: "Arafat ment. bas extremely good intelligence Brit about the Palestinian groups. He has vowed to help track down the could be vital."

find whoever planned the attack a tooth" revenge. on the plane.

LONDON (Agencies) - Palesti- Airways, crashed on the small New Year's television interview. nian leader Yasser Arafat has Scottish town of Lockerbie Dec. vowed to hunt down those who 21 less than an hour after it took off from London.

The PLO sent a message to

President Reagan from its Tunis beadquarters pledging "a traitor's death" for the Pan Am bomber if it found him first, the Two weeks ago the United

States resumed contacts with the PLO after Arafat renounced terrorism and recognised Israel. Responsibility for the bombing

cooperate with U.S. intelligence has been claimed by a pro-Iranian agencies and the Federal Bureau group, the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution, but the Iranian, The paper quoted an unnamed government has denied involve-British Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher distanced herself be giving some people sleepless sinday from ILS calls for renights" after the Dec. 21 bombterrorists and we think this help taliation against those who planted the bomb on Pan Am The Sunday Express said Ara- Flight 103, saying there should be fat had vowed to send a squad to no "eye for an eye and a tooth for

"I don't think an eye for an eye The New York-bound aircraft, and tooth for a tooth is ever a Boeing 747 of Pan American valid," she said in a wide-ranging

"The most important thing to do is to try to get the cooperation of all nations to track these people down so that they are brought to justice," she said on the "David Frost on Sunday" programme on TV-Am, a commercial television channel.

The danger of revenge, she said, is that "it can affect innocent people."
U.S. President Ronald Reagan

said in his weekly radio broadcast Saturday that the United States would punish those responsible for the bomh. He said a report overseen by

U.S. President-elect George Bush advocating possible military action against "terrorists ought to ing. He did not elaborate. Bush vowed last week to "seek

hard and punish firmly, decisively, those who did this, if you could ever find them."

Thatcher said Sunday that no

(Continued on page 3)

Armenian KGB threatened with 'mass terror' ultimatum

ing over the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh are not freed ity police in Armenia, the newspaper Kommunist said.

The, anthor of the unsigned ultimatum, printed in Wednesday's edition of the Armenian communist daily, claimed to be armed with "Stinger" missiles used by rebels fighting Afghanistan's Soviet-backed government. The paper reached Moscow Sunday.

The paper also carried an attack by the republic's Communist Party on Armenian radio, the official news agency Armenpress and many newspapers for not quelling nationalist passions which have raged for more than nine months over the Azerbaijani territory.

The ultimatum said: "We demand the immediate release of the leaders of the Karabakh committee and all political pris-

"We give you 24 hours to think it over. Otherwise we will turn to incite passions among the popula-

MOSCOW (R) - An ultimatum mass terror. We will not set a threatening "mass terror" if time or place. We are armed with jailed members of a group fight- Stinger missiles delivered to us by our friends."

Kommunist said it was not has been sent to the KGB secur- clear, whether the ultimatum. which elansed on the evening of Dec. 23, was a genuine threat or pure "hooliganism."

However, its publication in the republie's most authoritative newspaper suggested it was being taken seriously amid continuing unrest over Nagorno-Karabakh despite this month's devastating Armenian earthquake.

To emphasise the gravity of the situation, the newspaper published beside it a photograph showing at least 40 bome-made grenades which it said were only part of caches seized in the re-

Several members of the Karabakh committee were arrested this month and others went into hiding after the Dec. 7 quake. The official media have ac-

cused the banned group of spreading false rumours in the wake of the disaster in order to

again criticised for fanning nationalist passions by a meeting of the ruling politburo of the Armenian Communist Party, details of which were published in the same edition of Kommunist.

The republic's leadership criticised large sections of the local media for their bandling of the crisis whieb blew up over demands by Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian majority for the enclave to be shifted from Azerbaijani to Armenian control.

Armenian radio and Armenpress were reprimanded for pubishing material which did not belp calm the situation, while the editor of an educational newspaper was accused of inciting people to take part in demonstrations. A long string of other named

newspapers also came under fire for failing to do enough to promote a change of the atmosphere over Nagorno-Karabakh. According to official figures,

sixty people bave died since the dispute first erupted into violence 10 months ago.

Israelis expel 13 Palestinians

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities Sunday expelled to Lebanon 13 Palestinians suspected of leadership in the anti-Israeli revolt, culminating a bloody weekend in which six Palestinians were shot to death in clashes.

Two other Palestinians agreed to leave voluntarily after striking a deal with the authorities. The army said the two would he allowed to return to their bomes in the occupied territories if they went into exile for five years and refrained from anti-Israeli activities during that time. Seven of the Palestinians expel-

led Sunday were from the occupied West Bank, and six were from the southern occupied Gaza Strip, a military spokesman said. The expulsions brought the

number of Palestinians expelled since the beginning of the uprising to 49.

The 13 were taken by helicopter to Zumriya checkpoint at the

northern edge of Israel's selfdeclared "security zone" in South Lebanon and were then driven in Lebanese vehicles towards Syrian and Ata Abu Kirsb, 54, of Shati positions in the Bekaa Valley, refugee camp in Gaza.

sources quoted by Reuters said. Sources identified the 13 as: Massoud Za'efer, 42, from Nablus; Hanni Halouh, 28, (Tulkarem); Abdul Hamid Baba, 25, (Al Amari refugee camp); Othman Mohammad Daoud, 27, (Qalqilya); Yousef Harb Odeh, age not disclosed, (Balata refugee camp); Issam Daba'i, 24, (Nahlus); Jamal Faraj, 25, (Diheishe refugee camp); Sayed Baraka, 32, (Bani

Suheila, Gaza Strip); Abdallah Abu Samahadana, 38, (Gaza); Fathi Hajaj, 36, (Jahalya refugee camp); Rizk Bayari, 29, (Gaza); Ayesb Ahu Saadeb, 30, (Jahalya); and Munim Abu Attiyeb, 33, (Gaza).

The two men who agreed to leave voluntarily were identified as Nabil Mohammad Tamous, a 21-year-old activist from Gaza,

massive Israeli troop reinforce ments were sent to the occupie territories to prevent anticipate outbreaks of protests on Fate

In the West Bank, Palestinian set off firecraekers and stage parades in several villages, dance ng and waving pictures of Pales tine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafa to mark Fateh day.

Three Palestinians were sho and wounded, including a 17 year-old critically wounded by bullet shot in the bead, militar reports said.

Hospital officials said 17-year old Marwan Al Madani was i critical condition after be bein hit in the head by a plastie bulle in Tulkarem.

Troops declared Nablus, th largest West Bank city, a close military area and imposed cur fews on two nearby refuge

The Gaza Strip was also unde indefinite curfew to curb protest on the anniversary of the first Fatch operation, an attempt t blow up a water pipeline in north ern Israel Jan. 1, 1965.

(Continued on page 3)

Egypt urges Israel to respond positively to PLO peace moves

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian minister said in remarks published Sunday that Israel was imposing a state of cold peace in relations with Egypt by failing to respond to Palestinian peace moves.

Affairs Boutros Ghali said be hoped Israel would take a positive part in efforts to end suffering, wars, destruction and insta-

bility in the region.
"Egypt sees that Palestinians have clearly and undoubtedly chosen peace and coexistence while the Israelis could not make a clear choice between war and peace," Ghali told the Middle

East News Agency. "Israel's failure to respond to the Palestinian hand extended in peace imposes an atmosphere of cold peace on Israeli-Egyptian

achieve the essential goal — a political department, an settlement of the Arab-Israeli Mahmoud Abbas, head of par conflict and the Palestinian Arab and international relanon

Cairo, citing the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) nians "who bave political an recognition of Israel's right to legal qualifications to visit the exist, bas urged the Zionist state to attend an international conference on Middle East peace.

PLO team to U.S.

The PLO will form a fivemember delegation to visit the and Gaza Strip to Amrican publi United States, the PLO's radio opinion, the radio quoted the station said Saturday.

The Voice of Palestine, in a hroadcast from Algiers monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, quoted an unnamed would be mandated to talk o high-ranking Palestinian source behalf of the PLO with any U.S. as saying the PLO Executive Committee had asked Farouk

ties because of the failure to Kaddounii, head of the PLO

to set up the delegation.
Its members would be Palest UŠA," it said. Their mission would be con

firmed to explaining the develop ments and background of th Palestinian cause and the uprisin in the Israeli-occupied West Ban

ource as saying.

Members of the delegation would work as roving ambassa dors in the United States an

(Continued on page 3)

1,500 killed in Lebanon in 1988

BEIRUT (R) - Nearly 1,500 people died violently in Lebanon in 1988 despite a civil war lull, according to police, militia and hospital sources. The death toll, compared with

an estimated 1,415 in 1987, came in a year when the country's worst political crisis paralysed government but direct rightistleftist clashes were few. At least 580 people were killed

in a series of inconclusive battles between Lebanese militias for control of the Shi'ite Muslim community in the south and Beirut's southern suburbs, the sources The New Year opened with

fresh clashes between Hizbollah (Party of God) militants and Amal militiamen as the thud of explosions from shells and the rattle of machineguns echoed across the southern suburbs (see

Incursions and thrusts into the

south and Bekaa Valley hy the Israeli army and the allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia killed 192 people in 1988, the

sources said. A further 96 people, including about 50 guerrillas, died in Israeli air strikes and raids on Palestinian and Lebanese targets. Sixteen Israeli soldiers and 29 SLA militiamen were reported killed in clashes with guerrillas, the sources said.

Attackers opposed to Syria's military presence in Lehanon, killed 12 Syrian soldiers. Car bomb hlasts killed 115 people while gunmen killed two Westerners a Frenchman and a Belgian — in

Thirteen people were killed in fighting across the green line battle zone which has divided Beirut since the start of the civil war in 1975. Three Amal officials were killed in September. Palestinian guerrillas ousted Lebanon

fighters loyal to Palestine Libera tion Organisation (PLO) Chai man Yasser Arafat from two re fugee camps in June. At least 11

Palestinians were killed. Four people died in sporad conflicts between Amal an Palestinian forces near the south ern port of Sidon and seven wer killed in a Palestinian power stru gle in the 'Ain Al Hilweh refuge

Gunfights in east Beirut be tween loyalists of President Ami Gemayel, who ended bis term i September, and the bardlin Lebanese Forces militia kille

seven people. Police said they attribute another 265 deaths to intermi tent factional fighting, random

violence and crime. Militias in Beirut said they pu eight people to death for allege crimes and 13 people were kille

in two days of clashes in nort

Festivities around the world: catastrophe hits Rio, Manila 1989, police said.

NEW YORK (Agencies) -New Year's revelers gathered happily in places such as London's Trafalgar Square, a Tokyo stadium and New York City's neon-lit Times Square, hut catastrophe stalked the festivities in Rio de Janeiro and

Manila. An overcrowded cruise vessel on its way to view Rio's famous Copacabana beach fireworks collided with a private yacht, killing at leats 42 people. In the Philippines, illegal fireworks set off in the revelries lalted 11 people, injured bundreds and sparked fires that left thousands bomeless.

In Peru, nearly half of the capital of Lima beld its parties in the dark as a blackout hit the city for the second consecutive

New Year's eve. Leftist guerrillas were blamed for the previous outage, but the state power company did not immediately ascribe responsibility for the latest one.

Presidents Ronald Reagan of the United States and Mikhail S. Gorbachev of the Soviet Union sent New Year's messages to each other Saturday, hoping for still more progress in U.S.-Soviet relations. Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski said talks with the opposition were "ever more urgent," and South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo looked towards better ties with communist North Korea.

As Big Ben struck midnight, an estimated 100,000 New Year's revelers jammed Trafalgar Square Sunday to ring in Scotland Yard said the turn-

out was the largest since a violent New Year's celebration six years ago, when two women were killed in a surging crowd in the central London square, the traditional focal point of celebrations for Londoners.

In the Vatican, Pope John Paul marked the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Peace and prayed that 1989 would be year of justice, solidarity and greater respect for the rights of ethnic minorities.

Government troops and communist rebels in the Philippines observed a truce but 11 people were killed and 2,000 injured in firecracker hlasts. stabbings and shootings during New Year revelry, officials

More than 14,000 people were reported to have lost their homes in Manila in fires started by firecrackers.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a television interview, praised Gorbachev for his "great vision and boldness and courage.'

"If he gets through with his reforms the world is a safer place. If he gets through with his reforms the cold war is at an end," she said.

In Japan, as thousands thronged to shrines to usher in the New Year, thousands of teenagers welcomed 1989 hv singing and dancing to the music of U.S. rock bands at a concert in downtown Tokyo Japanese people packed the Big Egg stadium for the sevenhour show featuring Bon Jovi. Britany Fox, Kingdom Come

Thousands packed Times Square for the traditional New Year's countdown as 272-kilogramme wrought-iron hall descended a pole at Times Square to mark the New Year.

Arlindo Pubarao, a radio operator for the sea rescue service of the Rio de Janeiro state fire department, said "a lot of people went to the bottom" in the collision of the vacht and the cruise ship Bateau Mouche.

Irineu Barroso, the chief of Rio's 10th police precinct, said 42 people died. He said he had no information on the numbers of injuries and those rescued. "It seems there was an excess of passengers, maybe 130 to 150 (on board)," Barroso

The cruise boat Bateau Mouche has a capacity of about 100, a local radio station said.

"We understand the boat was told to turn back, but ignored the order," Barroso

Pubarao said the Bateau Mouche and the private yacht Casa Branca collided, and there were victims from both vessels. He did not give further details, and said rescue officials were still out in the choppy seas, giving rescue operations.

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Sudan marks independence day embroiled in crisis

KHARTOUM (R) - Sudan marked the 33rd and created a famine in which anniversary of its independence Sunday embroiled in a political crisis and faced with continuing civil war in the famine-hit south.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, whose coalition was rocked by three days of violent street protests and a general strike last week, said in an independence day speech his government planned to carry out a wide range of political reforms.

'We hope to plug the gaps and huild on the strong points and proceed to the next stage of the democratic process — general elections that we hope will strengthen democracy," he said.

Mahdi did not make clear whether he was referring to elecelection, but he said: "People should learn from their mistakes and experiences.

The latest unrest, in which least one person was killed and scores were injured, was sparked by a government decision last Monday to raise prices, by 500 per cent in the case of sugar.

The government backed down and rescinded the increases three days later after protests had spread to most major provincial

Members of Mahdi's Umma Party claimed foreign powers had incited the violence while unconfirmed rumours circulated that the military, which has taken power in Sudan three times since independence in 1956 from Anglo-Egyptian rule, might inter-

General Mahdi Babo Nimr, the chief of staff, told the independent newspaper Al Ushu that army commanders had held exlensive meetings to ensure the country's security. He vowed that the military would continue to

protect democratic rule. The authorities said last month they had uncovered a plot to overthrow the government led by retired army officers and politicians who had served under President Jaafar Numeiri. Numeiri. ousted in a 1985 military coup. now lives in Egypt.

The Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), a key partner in Mahdi's coalition, quit the government last week in protest at the price rises and the government's failure to adopt a peace pact it reached last month with rebels in south

Rebel leader John Garang of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), whose estimated 40,000 men have been fighting

troops since 1983, said peace prospects for 1989 were dim. "It had hoped 1989 would be a year of peace, but prospects appear hleak," he said in a radio

roadcast Saturday. The fighting has forced millions of southerners from their homes tens of thousands died last year.

Western and Arah diplomats said the DUP's departure from the government made an early settlement of the conflict unlikely. They also predicted that Lihya might become increasingly involved in the fighting.

The DUP, which has a strong pro-Egyptian faction, blocked a unity pact last year hetween Sudan and Lihya. Sidahmed Khalifa, editor of

the pro-Umma Al Watan newspaper, wrote Sunday that Lihyan aircraft bad raided SPLA positions preventing major southern towns falling into rebel hands and prompting the rejection of the SPLA-DUP pact.

Hassan Al Tourahi, leader of the co-ruling National Islamic Front (NIF), was quoted as saying the government would seek a vote of confidence when parliament reconvened, possibly next week.

There was controversy over whether head of state Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani would resign following the DUP's withdrawal from government. He is the only DUP member on the five-man supreme council which acts as a joint and largely ceremonial presidency.

Sawt Al Umma, mouthpiece of Mahdi's Umma Party, said the prime minister had sought Mirghani's resignation. But Mirghani was quoted as saying he was a symbol of Sudanese people and did not represent the DUP as

> definitely been sabotage." British investigators bave found traces of explosives in the plane's dehris and the government has said a bomb caused the Boeing 747, flying from London to New York, to crash on the small Scottish town of Lockerbie

> > The Lihyan leader declared: 'Neither Syria nor Libya nor Iran were responsible.

BEIRUT (R) - The New Year

in Lebanon opened to the sound

of exploding shells and

machinegun fire echoing across

Beirut southern suburbs as

Police said fighters of Hizbel-

lah (Party of God) and Amal

militiamen fought in Hay Madi.

Hajjaj and Chiyah, suburbs that are home to some 500,000

Some of the 17 Westerners

missing and believed kidnap-

ped in Lebanon are thought to

Civilians passed the start of their New Year Day trapped

indoors, fearing the fighting

Amal sources said two Syrian

soldiers, part of a Syrian force

in control of the suburbs, were

Muammar Qadhafi said Saturday

he believed sabotage caused the

crash of a Pan Am Jumbo jet in

Scotland, which killed 270 peo-

ple, but he denied that Libya,

Qadhafi, interviewed on

French television by satellite

from Tripoli, was asked what he

would say to President Reagan or

President-elect George Bush if

they were listening to him. He

replied: "I would say there had

Iran or Syria was responsible.

be held in the suburbs.

would worsen.

militiamen clashed.

Responsibility for the attack has been claimed by a pro-Iranian group called the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution. Iran has denied involvement.

Asked about U.S. suspicious that Libya played a part in the attack, Qadhafi said: "The Americans are always seeking justifications for their acts. This time the act has been wrongly attributed to us.

"We will stand up to these tory is purely pharmaceutical. Do cynical," he said.

Qadhafi certain Pan Am plane sabotaged, denies involvement

attack, any aggression by the

Lebanon greets New Year

with fresh violence

wounded Saturday night in

similar clashes between Amai

Hizbollah sources said one of

their gunmen was killed in

Saturday's clash which was

rapidly contained by Syrian

Both factions hlamed the

Amal accused Hizbollah of

other for triggering the

kidnapping one of its members

in the suburbs while Hizbollah

said Amal militiamen harassed

Amai and Hizbollah officials

said contacts were underway to

halt the fighting, the second outbreak since Syria and Iran intervened in November to end

five days of battles in the sub-

urbs that killed 29 people and

nne of its followers.

and Hizbollab.

United States will be doomed to He continued: "The United States would oot get worldwide support if it were to attack Lehanon, Iran, Lihya or Syria." The United States bombed Tripoli in April 1986.

PARIS (R) - Libyan leader accusations. We are sure that any

Libva's relations with the United States have been even cooler than usual in recent weeks over Washington's accusations that a factory built in Libya was for the production of poison gas. Libya says it is a legitimate pharmaceutical products plant.

U.S. rejection assailed

Qadhafi attacked the U.S. reection Saturday of his offer of international inspection of the factory, based in a sparsely populated area 60 kilometres from the

He said the United States was "talking a new language of col-

Referring to U.S. State Department comments that the offer was inadequate and that a chemical weapons factory could easily he modified to appear as a legitimate industrial chemical plant, Qadhafi said:

"That means oothing. The fac-

Americans want? They made missiles for Israel and they have huilt nuclear weapons." Qadhafi congratulated the pro-

we have to shut down our chemic-

al industry now? Is that what the

The two factions clashed last

Tuesday but there were no

Amal and Hizbollah, vying

for dominance of Lebanon's 1.5

million Shi'ites, have frequent-

ly fought since 1984 when Hiz-

bollah emerged as a challenge

Amal ousted some 1,000 Hiz-

bollah fighters from South

Lebanon in April. In fighting in

May between the two sides

some 500 people were killed.

tles by deploying thousands of

soldiers in the area.

Syria stopped the May bat-

Hizhollah, financed and

ideologically inspired by Iran.

seeks a greater political role among Lebanon's Shi'ites while

Amal wants to maintain its

casualties.

to Amal.

Lihyan Fateh Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal for its release two days ago of two French girls held captive for over Marie-Laure Valente, seven,

and her six-year-old sister Virginie returned to France after they were freed in Lihya, But Qadhafi said the group should bave re-leased their mother Jacqueline at the same time.

The three, the mother's boyfriend and four members of his family were seized from a pleasure yacht off the Gaza Strip in November 1987. The adults are still in captivity.

The Lihyan leader said he appealed to all kidnappers hold-ing hostages in the Middle East to release them.

"I appeal to all kidoappers, not just Abu Nidal, but especially to Abu Nidal, to release all hostages they are holding."
He shrugged off questions ab-

out the timing of the release, which coincided with the Libyan stage of the Paris-Dakar motor rally and meant that French television teams were on hand.

"These questions are very

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bhutto to visit S. Arabia Jan. 17

NICOSIA (R) - Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will visit Saudi Arabia Jan. 17 on her first trip abroad since she was elected last month, the Qatari News Agency said Sunday. Bhutto will discuss hilateral, regional and Islamic issues with Saudi officials, the ageory said in a report from Riyadh monitored in

Arap Moi rejects Arab criticism

NAIROBI (R) - President Daniel Arap Moi has attacked Arab countries for questioning Kenya's decision to re-establish diplomauc relations with Israel. In a New Year message broadcast live Saturday night from Nakuru, 160 kilometres north-west of the capital, Moi said: "No one has the right to lecture Kenya on matters of policy. Kenyans are oot children — as a free country, Kenya has the right to decide its own destiny without interference from outside." The Arab League last week expressed regret at the Kenyan decision to renew ties with Israel, severed in 1973 in line with an Organisation Of Africa Unity Resolution. Kenyan newspapers Saturday gave prominence to pictures of the Israeli flag heing raised again at the embassy in Nairobi.

President urges end to Cyprus divisions

NICOSIA (AP) — President George Vassiliou, leader of the Greek Cypriol majority, called Saturday for new efforts to end the sectarian partition of the war-divided island and said "Division and strife belong to epochs loog past." In a New Year address hroadcast by the state-run television and radio networks, he appealed to Turkish Cypriots to join with the majority in huilding "the Cyprus of the 21st century." He declared: "In this small island, we all have our share of bitterness and distress. It is, however, high time to work for peace and unity in our country. He said that the "present division ... constitutes a striking anomaly in a world of growing international trends toward ever greater unities." Vassilou issued his appeal amid a new round of talks with Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Deoktash oo ways of reuniting the island under a United Nations-proposed bizonal federation. The first round of talks between August and November ended with little sign of progress.

Iran shuns women soloists

NICOSIA (R) - Solo women singers will remain barred from the airwaves of Iran despite rumours of a change in policy, the country's hroadcasting chief was quoted Saturday as saying. Mohammad Hashemi said radio and television would go on playing music by female choirs but women singing alooe did oot conform to the broadcasting organisation's Islamic code, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "In a country with more than 50 million people, naturally there are different tastes and the organisation certainly cannot hope to satisfy all of them," he said. IRNA said Hashemi was speaking at the inauguration of a radio transmission centre in the central province of Yazd. He had some consolation for any disgruntled listeners. He promised that radio and television programmes marking the 10th anniversary of Iran's revolution Feb. 11 would be better than ever.

Bangladeshis flock to Iran for jobs

DHAKA (R) — Ahject poverty and widespread unemployment have forced up to 10,000 Bangladeshis to take up illegal residence in Iran, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said Sunday. "We have only 2,000 expairiate nationals working in Iran under legal permits but there are up to 10,000 others staying there illegally," he told a news conference. Mahmud said Iran was considering a request he made during a recent visit to Tehran that the 10,000 be granted legal residence and work permits. Mahmud paid a three-day visit to Tehran from Dec. 20 before flying to Pakistani. capital of Islamahad for the fourth summit of the South Asian, Association for Regional Cooperation ISAARC). Bangladesh earned \$600 million from remittances from more than half a million expatriate workers during the fiscal year that ended last June.

U.N. chief calls for intra-Afghan dialogue for peaceful settlement secretary general expresses also

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has expressed concern over the slow pace of movement towards a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan and urged an intra-Afehan dialogue aimed at setting up a broad-based government. In a statement issued through a

fering and plight of Afghans both inside and outside the country. with millions displaced and re-

spokesman Saturday, he express-

ed concern at the continuous suf-

While welcoming the recent positive steps toward a promotion

Swiss police free Turkish

holding three Turkish asylum seekers as suspects.

detained at another unspecified place.

asylum. Their names were not disclosed.

independent. Marxist. Kurdish state.

"At some point I leared for my life."

Switzerland frequently on business.

businessman, hold 3 suspects

GENEVA (Agencies) - Swiss police Saturday freed a Turkish businessman reported kidnapped in Geneva and said they are

Police spokesman Marcel Vandroz told a press conference that

Vaudroz said Reyhan was found in one room and that he was

under guard by two of the suspects who were in another room. He

said they had no firearms but carried knives. A third suspect was

million) ransom were ideotified by Vaudroz merely as Turkish

nationals, aged 21, 27, and 36, who had been in Switzerland for

several years pending a decision on their request for political

Reyhan's family said the abductors identified themselves in tele-

phone calls as members of ao unknown "Vengeance Brigade" of the

outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) seeking to set up an

He said a criminal investigation was underway and was expected

"I am very happy to free again," Mehmet Reyhan told reporters.

He said he was held up at gunpoint last Tuesday after he had stepped out of his downtown hotel and then was taken away. He said

that attackers spoke Turkish but declined to say more about their

press conference where he was juined by his father, Ugur Reyhan.

And his twin-brother Ali who had come to Geneva at the demand of

Ugur Reyban is a member on the executive board of the

conservative Istanbul daily Tercuman which broke the story of the

kidnapping. Mehmet is based in Luxembourg but travels to

Spokesman Vaudroz said eyewitnesses had told police they had

seen four men getting out of a car Thursday, one obviously being

beld against his will. Police had lound the apartment after tracing

He looked pale but in good health as he spoke hriefly at the police

were affiliated to any group opposed to the Turkish govern

tn shed soon more light on the motives of the kidnappers.

Vaudroz said it was "too early" to say whether the kidnappers

The abductors who had demanded five million Swiss francs (\$3.3

28-year-old Mehmet Reyhan was freed unharmed shortly before noon (11:00 GMT) in a Geneva apartment following a tip from a

his concern at the slow pace of the developments in that direction," the statement said.

'Accordingly he appeals to all Afghans to spare no efforts and take the necessary steps towards an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based government and the creation of the necessary conditions of peace and normalcy that would enable the Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homeland in safety and honour."

Perez de Cuellar said be hoped 1989 would see the end of the "long and tragic war in that coun-

try and that it will be a year of peace, reconstruction and rehabi-

Soviet-hacked Afghan President Najibullah Friday declared a unilateral ceasefire in the 10year-old war against guerrillas starting Jan. 1, but this was not referred to in the secretary general's statement.

The ceasefire call has been rejected by Pakistan-based rebels, who have vowed to fight on until all Soviet troops withdraw from Afghanistan and Najihullah's government is overthrown.

Under accords signed in Gene-va last April all Soviet troops are to be out of the country by Feh.

Ancient garrage could hold clue to who built Giza pyramids

Sara Al Gammai Reuter

CAIRO - Bits of seeds, dried mud and ancient garbage may hold the clue to a mystery that has puzzled men for centuries - who built Egypt's Giza pyramids and when?

A group of American and Egyptian specialista have started an intensive search for clues about the ancient Egyptians who built the pyramids of Cheops, Cheppren and Mycer-

"What's missing is the peo-ple, the masses of people. In two centuries of excavations in Giza, nobody asked: who were the workers, how were they bnosed, who made their hread?" archaeologist Mark Lehner from Minot, Ohio, told

Lehner, who is directing two digs to the west and south of the pyramids with Zahi Hawass, said previous excavations had mainly focused on the ancient structures: their temples, tombs, statues and hieroglyphic inscriptions.

Hawass, director-general of

the Giza pyramids area, said they were searching for the workmen's village, established by King Cheops to the south of his pyramid.
"If we know the size of the

village, we'll know bow many people lived in it, bow many people built the pyramids, what they were like and possibly how old the pyramids are," he said.

The existence of a workmen's city was first mentioned in the writings of Greek historian Herodotus who lived from 484-425 B.C., Hawass told Renters.

Historians believe that about 5,000 years agn, at least 100,000 men cut seven million cubic metres of limestone, and pushed and pulled the gigantic blocks up a ramp on rollers.

They stacked them precisely - to the thousandth of an inch - to form three massive pyramids meant to be eternal tombs for their kings.

Other archaeologists this century have uncovered mudbrick walls, seals and pottery sherds from the workmen's settlements. Bot Lehner said no detailed study on the people who built the structures had been undertaken before. "People have not thought

enough about the implications of organising 100,000 men in one place and at one time, especially in ancient times," be Erich von Daniken, author ni

"Chariot of the Gods," speculated that the technology used by the ancient Egyptians must have been passed on by aliens from outer space. Lehner said a team of 14 American archaeologists, scien-

tists and bone and plant specialists hoped to find anthropological answers to the mysteries of the pyramids. Every bit of pottery, bone,

hrick and grain they come across is collected for analysis and dating.

"We're interested in the garbage of these ancient times. If you look at garbage, even modern garbage, it tells yno a lot about the society, who they were and how they lived," he

By analysing the grains, Lehner said they could tell if the workers were being fed wheat or barley and if it was

imported. Fragments of bones would indicate what animals they were eating and how often.

Because this type of anthropological archaeology has not been done bere in Giza, it can tell us all about the economy of the time, the environment and Digging three trenches west of Chepbreo's pyramid, the

team has unearthed limestone. mnd and red clay walls, nne extending three metres down. Lehner said Sir William Flinders Petrie excavated two galleries 30 metres long and three

metres wide near the same site in 1882. Petric identified them as the pyramid hullders' barracks and said 91 such rooms existed

on the site. "But we don't think this is where the workmen lived. Yno dna't find ancient deposits or

garbage here. Ont there to the south, we are finding remains of settlement," Lehner said. Hawass said he believed Pet-

rie's barracks were workshops for making pottery and stone artifacts to put in temples, and included an area to store fresh



The Great Pyramid, with the Sphinx in the foreground

food offerings to the priests. Lehner's team found bits of alahaster and granite and is testing the idea that the galleries were io effect workers' banks used to store their wages, paid in commodities. In another excavation site to

the south of the pyramids, signs of settlement are beginning to emerge from under mounds of coarse sand. Zoo archaeologist Howard

Hecker from New York said they had found ancient cattle and goat bones among pottery sherds, seeds and dried mud. No human bones have yet been

Lehner said they had uncovered what could be the thin outline of disintegrated walls of a mudhrick house, possibly part of the workmen'a village. If the samples taken off the site belonged to the village and were dated back to before Cheops' reign, Hawass said, the pyramids could be older

"Bot it is still too early to know. This is just a testing season," said Lehner, adding that the team would continue work until the end of January.

Banana (Mukammar) 350 / 300 Reans (Mukammar) 300 / 250

than their estimated 5,000

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 7'3111-19

PROGRAMME ONE Programme review Keran News summary in Arabic World News Arabic series Local programme 19:46 Programme review Programme on plastic arr ... Arabic series

Programme review
Monday Forum News summars in Arabic Arrely show (comd.) PROGRAMME TWO Cultural programme
... Rue Carnot News in French Weekly Sport magazine

 19:45
 Varieties

 20:00
 News in Arabic

 20:30
 Allo Allo

 21:10
 Jack and Mike
 Jewel in the Crown PRAYER TIMES

16:46 Ma 18:09 CHURCHES

06:31 (Sunrise) Duha 11.38 Dhuhr

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624500. Church of the Annunclation Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasania Church Tel: 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543. Armenian Cotholic Church Tel.

Armenian Orthodex Church Tct. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tct. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264 WEATHER '

ulletin supplied by the Department of

It will be partly cloudy with a chance for local scattered rain. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea. Min./max. temp.
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Aqaba 6 / 17
Deserts 6 / 17 Jordan Valley Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 8, Aqaba 16, Humidity readings: Amman 64 per cent, Aqaba 36 per

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

MMAN:	
r. Abdul Rahman Al Najja	T75050
r. Mahmond Jabi	
. Wael Khartabil	615035
r. Anwar Aqrabawi	64269 0
ras pharmacy	66t9t2
rdows pharmacy	778336
Asema pharmacy	637055
airoukh pharmacy	623672
Salam pharmacy	636730

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sabahin Al Sharao' pharmacy ZARQA: Dr. Rabah Al Borisi

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EMERGENCIES Civil Defence Directorate 661t1t 630341

198, 891228 778303 Fire Brigade Blood Bank Highway Police
Traffic Police
Public Security Directorate

(directory assistance)
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HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity. J. Amn 64241/2 Akileh Maternity. J. Amn 64241/2 Jabal Ammon Maternity...... 642362

Patesune, annucisani 0041/1/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37 Al-Ahli Abdali 177101/3
Irtalian Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army Marka 991611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155 6641646 Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital .. (09)991071 Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital ... (02)272275 Bin Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

Princess Haya Hospital 103)314tt1 MARKET PRICES

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday delegated his advisor for tribal affairs to convey his condolences to Al Shira'ah family over the death of the late Faraj Falch Al Shira'ah. (Petra)

HAJ HASSAN INSPECTS TRANSPORT WORK: Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khalid Al Haj Hassan Sunday inspected progress of work at the Uoited Company for Land Transport and discussed with the company's director general the organisation of the trucks loading and offloading to ensure the flow of goods from and to Aqaba. (Petra)

PREMIUM POSTAL SERVICES: The Post and Postal Saving Corporation has introduced the premium post service with Algeria through regular flights by the Royal Jordanian planes, thus bringing to 25 the number of countries applying this service, the corporation's Director Ghazi Rifai said Sunday. (Petra)

ZARQA GOVERNORATE PROJECTS: Zarqa Governor Eid Al Qatarneh urged beads of municipal councils within the Zarqa Governorate to conduct an assessment of all development projects in their regioo. He said that the councils ought to present plans for future schemes to the governor as sooo as possible. (Petra)

EISS HEALTH CENTRE: Tafileb Health Department has completed work on a JD 30,000 health centre at Eiss. The department said that at least 500 citizens will beoefit from the oew centre, and added that a comprehensive bealth centre will be built io Tafileb at the cost of JD 22,000. (Petra)

STAMP COLLECTION WINS AWARD: A Jordanian stamp collection displayed at the Prague exhibition for 1988 bas woo a silver medal in appreciation of their cultural, historical and bumanitariao

HUWWARAH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: Huwwarah Municipality has elected a oew municipal couocil, headed hy Barakat Mahmoud Shatanawi who won 1,469 votes in the elections which took place Sunday morning. The municipality elected 6 other members to serve as municipal council members. (Petra)

AQABA EDUCATION DEPARTMENT: Agaba District Education Department Director Majed Abu Darwisb chaired a meeting for the department heads and discussed with them the department's voluntary work plan for the year 1989, (J.T.)

TEENAGER DIES IN CAVE COLLAPSE: A 15-year-old boy identified as Kh.B.S. was found dead in Wadi Al Azraq area near Salt, where the cave he was playing near collapsed, thus breaking his skull. In Kuweismeb, a three-year-old child fell in a deserted well while be was playing with his brothers, and was rusbed to the Bashir hospital in serious condition. (Al Dustour)

ANJARA MUNICIPALITY ELECTIONS: Anjara municipality in Ajlono district Sunday elected a new council beaded by Khalifa Ibrahim Al Smadi, who won 1,795 votes, in addition to 7 other

44 policewomen to graduate today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 44 policewomen will graduate bere Monday at a ceremony to be beld under the patronage of Her Majesty Queeo Noor.

The graduates, the 25th batch Public Security Department's (PSD) Women Police Devisioo, will receive diplomas and awards from the Queen for completing a course of training.

The Queen will watch a performance of the graduates skills in martial arts and will inspect other parts of the PSD's divisions.

The graduates have been so far to be turned out from the trained io cooducting various types of police work, criminal investigations, criminal laboratory technique and administrative tasks associated with policewomen's work at different de-

Women police in Jordan are being employed to carry out traffic duties, and groups work side by side with policemeo at govern-

ment departments, PSD offices,

airports and border posts. Their four-month training periods ioclude tae kwan do and karate martial arts, the use of lights arms and first aid.

Department to start distribution of income tax forms to taxpayers

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and

the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at

* An exhibition of works by Contemporary Arab Artists at Al

An exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Farouk Lambaz

* The Jordanian plastic art exhibition at the Royal Cultural

LECTURE

* A lecture on Privatisation by Professor Emanuel Savas,

University of New York, at the American Ceentre.

chairman of the Department of Management - the City

time and place with the concerned institutions.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Income Tax Department Mooday starts distributing forms to taxpayers around the Kingdom to collect informatioo about their income so that estimates can be made for their income tax, according to a

department official Sunday. He said that according to the department law taxpayers will be allowed certain discounts if they

the National Gallery.

Wasiti Art Gallery.

at Alia Art Gallery - 5:30 p.m.

pay their dues in the first three tions, firms and other businesses in different governorates. mooths of the year oo their revenues made in the past year.

The Income Tax Department this year plans to collect more than JD 60 million up from around JD 50 million in the past year, according to the official. He said that teams from the Income Tax Departments will distribute the forms to organisa-

No tile factories allowed within Zarqa city

ZARQA (Petra) - Zarqa Municipality will oot issue oew licences to companies to manufacture tiles and bricks for building if they intend to establish the business within the boundaries of the city, according to a decision announced Sunday by the municipality committee chairman.

He said that the existing companies and workshops producing these commodities will be moved to a new 500 dunum area of land assigned for industry and crafts.

No stray animals in residential areas

AMMAN (Petra) - The Public Security Department (PSD) said Sunday that all residential areas in the Kingdom are free from wolves and that oone of the residential areas within the Greater Amman boundaries bas beeo attacked by any fierce animals.

The PSD added that during the very cold nights of last week, when there was frost formation, three stray dogs have resorted to some areas in search of warmth and food.

Department of Customs issues special laws for expatriates, diplomats

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Customs diplomatic mission has been ter-Sunday issued a set of regulations governing cars,. pieces of furniture and electrical appliances brought into the country by Jordanian expatriates returning to settle here, or by diplomatic missions.

can bring in pieces of furniture if they produce a document proving in the Kingdom and must produce a document proving that carpets of no more than 60 square they acquired oew jobs in Jordan. carpets of no more than 60 square metres in area.

Expatriates or studeots can bring in used furniture provided that they bad speot at least two years abroad and that they had been using the furniture themselves for at least six mooths before returning to Jordan, according to Qudah.

As to cars, they should be registered before Nov. 6, 1988 in the names of expatriates wishing to bring them back with them and that expatriates cannot sell such cars before the lapse of at least one year, according to Qudah.

He said that expatriates or studeots returning to the country cannot bring in brand new elec-

Department Director General trical appliances of the type oo Adel Qudab said that expatriates which a ban had been clamped. But, be added, they can bring in used appliances, one of each the termination of their work kind of the following: "Refrigera-abroad, or that their children, tors, washing machines, televihave been transferred to schools sion sets, gas ranges, vacuum cleaners, tape recorders, fans,

> metres in area. Referring to diplomatic missions, Qudah said that cars registered in Jordan before Nov. 6. 1988 can be replaced or cleared only after exemption from duty for three years.

> Cars registered in Jordan after Nov. 6 canoot be cleared but can be re-exported or sold to persons who enjoy exemptions of duty on their belongings, or can be re-garded under the temporary entry category.
>
> Qudah said that cars exempted

from duty or those under temporary cotry in Jordan cannot be sold the tour of duty of a member of a country.

minated or if the car has been damaged in an accident making it unfit for the diplomatic mission's

For a member of a diplomatic mission to enjoy the right of bringing in cars, he should be delegated by his own government and bolding his government's oatiooality. Should the diplomat bold two oationalities one of which is Jordanian, he would not enjoy such a privilege, Qudah

A diplomatic missioo can own one or two motorcycles for official use and they will be exempted from customs duty, but diplomats caooot own their motorcycles, Qudah said. Five-year-old cars cannot be

brought io by diplomatic missions, Qudah noted.

He said that diplomats, who beoefit from exemptions should present a list of household furniture, cars and other belongings to the Foreign Ministry to get permission to take them out of the country upon departure.

These regulations be said apply to all non-Jordanians employed by U.N. offices and Arab League before three years, except wheo organisations operating in the

Committee to exempt missions from importation of banned commodities

meot-appointed follow-up and coordinatioo committee is taking measures to exempt diplomatic missions and regional and international organisations which have offices in Amman from the receot ban on the importation of certain commodities.

The committee which met under the chairmanship of Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary Geoeral Mohammad Saggaf discussed a number of questions related to the importation of tions that should be met so that

committee. (Petra)

within the luxury bracket with a view to allow personnel employed by foreign diplomatic missions, regional and international organisations and foreign comto a statement Sunday.

The statement said that a subcommittee was formed at the meeting to cooduct a comprebensive assessment of these offices and organisations and the coodi-

IDC ELECTS NEW COMMITTEE: Irbid Development Corporatioo (IDC) Sunday elected a new administrative committee, beaded by Rizq Al Bataineh, who will be the committee's chairman, Mohammad Mahdi Farhan and Wasef Azar as first and secood vice chairmeo respectively. The committee also comprises Saleb Rsheidat, Khuzama Al Rashid, Saad Al Halbouni, Ali Abanda, Samir Khreis and Abdul Gbafour Hijazi. According to the committee's statute Irbid Mayor Abdul Razaq Tubeishat and Irbid Municipal Council member Issam Hatamleh are also members of the

these commodities which fall exemptions can be made. The committee also set up a number of sub committees to

examine the marble factory com-

pany's financial condition and to

look into the prospect of setting panies to import them, according specifications and fixed prices for the sale of iron according to the statement. Saggaf, who addressed the meeting, reviewed the committee's achievements and activities over the past year to remove obstacles that could impede the application of economic, financial

and mooetary measures introduced by the government in order to reduce spending, ratiocalise consumption and stimulate the national economy. The present circumstances, he

said, make it imperative on all sectors to cooperate for the sake of increasing production, so that the country can maintaio the economic progress in the new year.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Israelis expel 13 Palestinians to Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

The underground leadership of the year-old Palestinian uprising bad called on the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to confront the Israeli army to commemorate the

Arafat himself participated in the Dec. 28, 1965 attack. There were no casualties in that attack. Hundreds of Palestinians gathered in remote West Bank villages to bold parades, an Arab reporter said. The teenagers gathered in at least balf a dozen

villages, dressed in quasi-military

(Continued from page 1)

country should grant the Pan Am

bombers safe baveo or permit

"I think pubbe opinioo is dis-

gusted with oations that will not

try to track down terrorists, abso-

Saturday that investigators be-

lieve the bomb was smuggled

ooto the flight in Frankfurt, poss-

ibly by a Lebanese-born passeo-

British oewspapers reported

them to escape justice.

lutely disgusted."

green and khaki-coloured vests and sporting masks to hide their faces, the Arab reporter said. -

They set off firecrackers and danced in the streets, be said. In Bethlebem, Palestinians spray-painted pictures of Arafat oo the wall and flew Palestinian

flags on telephone lines and electric poles, an Arab reporter said. Two Arabs were shot and. wounded during a protest in

woman said. At least 354 Palestinians bave been killed in the revolt which erupted in December 1987 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. De-

ger doped ioto carrying it. The

West German government said

there was no evideoce to support

furt with a Boeing 727 jet and switched to a Boeing 747 at Loo-

doo's Heathrow airport for the

The Sunday Times of London

said the bomb was loaded into the

airplane's forward cargo bold

next to the electronic oerve cen-

trip to New York.

Flight 103 originated in Frank-

highest monthly total.

'Popular army' In Baghdad, a PLO spokesman said Fateb had formed a Palestinian "popular army" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

He said the popular army consisted of thousands of yooths under orders from Force 17, the security force of the PLO. substitute for the unified com-

Ramallah, a military spokesmand of the Palestinian uprising but is another method of struggle... of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupatioo," the cember's death toll of 31 was the

The spokesman, who declined

tre that keeps the jet airborne.

vestigators and air traffic control-

lers bave confirmed what is yet to

be officially announced: When

the bomb exploded it wiped out

all the equipment by which the

crew in the cockpit cootrolled the

News reports in Britain and the

United States cootended the

bomb may have been unwittingly

brought on board the flight by

jet," the oewspaper said.

Interviews with accident in-

to be identified, read from a state-ment which be said was distri-buted by Fateh in Gaza Sunday.

"The popular army bad been assigned to safeguard the bomeland, security and order, establish justice and law and embody the power of the people," the statement said.

The spokesman said bundreds of popular army members beld a "The popular army is not a parade in the Nahlus area of the West Bank two months ago. Arafat said in a message broad-

cast by Voice of Palestine radio Saturday that the popular army the will of the Palestinian masses despite Israeli military forces.

Khalid Jaafer, a 21-year-old

Lebanese student. Khalid, wbo

was living in Frankfurt, was co

father when be died in the crash.

tiooed him about the reports Fri-

evideoce against my soo."

WIECKAR

Nazir Jaafar said the FBI ques-

Searchers in Lockerbie gave up

their traditional New Year's

celebrations Sunday to continue

the huot for bodies aod

Police sag that one more body.

Only 35 have been identified

and released to relatives for bu-

rial. Bruce Smith, a Pan Am pilot

whose English wife, Ingrid, was

killed, was quoted in the Sunday

Telegraph as saying the Scottish

police were "paralysed by inex-perience and incompeteoce."

at the crash site issued a state-

meot Sunday saying that while be

understands Smith's grief, the air-line believes the local police

"have been thoroughly profes-

to agonise in grief over the loss of

loved ones, and the sadness in-

flicted because of the criminal

investigation, we understand the

absolute necessity to do every-

thing bumanly possible to see that

such an unspeakable atrocity (as

the bomb) never bappens again,'

said Robert Gould, the airline's

senior vice-president for opera-

"While we at Pan Am continue

Pan Am's senior representative

thought to be one of the missing local residents, was recovered, bringing to total to 242.

90 Jordanian artists contribute to very and other fighters were imposing

enjoyable, interesting art exhibition Arafat said to have vowed to hunt down bombers

By Meg Abu Hamdan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Appropriately bringing the end to the artistic route to Michigan to visit his events of 1988 is a buge exhibition of the work of over 90 Jordanian artists currently active day and told him "they bave oo in the Kingdom.

Organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage the display of 200 works of art, which include all the disciplines, fills the ball at the Royal Cultural Ceotre almost to bursting point.

Yet despite the rather cramped conditions it is a very interesting and eojoyable show where the influences of the more established artists are reflected in the work of the younger ones and where more than any other joint exhibitioo in the past there is a ooticeably greater cooscious effort by almost all the artists to prodoce work that is relevant to their own background, culture and surroundings.

Dominating the work oo dis-

play however is a portrait of the Freoch pianist Eric Berchot by Fahrelnissa Zeid. Painted while the musician was practicing for a concert, it is a work that typifies the princess' unique ability to capture the essence of a person in a totally original way where her instinctive cootrol of colour and compositioo imbues ber paintings with great vitality and dynamism. It is a style that woo the princess great critical acclaim in a retrospective of her work held earlier this mooth in ber oative Istanbul. The influence of Fahrelnissa Zeid's personality and work can be seen in the paintings of the members of her institute, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, Suha Shoman, Hind Nasser and Jeanette Jumblatt, also on dis-

Although very active in putting on exhibitions and running the Jordan National Gallery, Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali bas not beld an exhibition of ber own work in a long time and the oil painting oo display at this exhibition reminds os of ber talents at reodering the desert with, its touches of colour, its lonely castles shimmering in the heat.

Also good to see is the work of Khaled Kriess and of his wife Clara, both excellent abstract



One of the paintings by Ali Ghul currently on display at the Royal Cultural Centre

artists more of whose work we hope to see next year. Two other husbaod and wife teams, all established artists in their own rights are Alia and Azziz Ammoura, both of whom have submitted quietly stirring pieces. that typify their choseo genres, and Dodi and Samer Tabba'a. Altbough better known as a sculpture, Samer Tabba'a has submitted ooe of his relief prints, a minimalist piece where tiny spidery scratches are interspersed with randomly placed areas of texture highlit in bold primary colours. From Dodi Tabba'a comes a collage constructed out of cardboard where the rough texture and dull buff colour of the material play, along with the painted areas of matt greys and sludgy greens a vital part in this well framed two part piece.

A work showing the influence of Ammoura is his one time student Ghassan Abu Lebeo the winner of a recent competitioo held at the Spanish Cultural Ceotre. Abu Leben's portrait of a boy playing the out set against deep background colonrs is a well painted, geotly effective piece. that does not ramanticise or als full of light, colour and ener-

irregular features. Other younger participaots include Ghada Dahdaleb who has submitted an interesting abstract where matt yellows and greens play against unpaioted areas of paper, Mohammad Jaloos whose bedowin figures emerge from broad strokes of white brushwork and Adeeb Atwan whose painting of a berd of cattle seen bead oo is a clever study of repeated forms using unusual colours and textures. Abdullah Nawafleb's townscape, full of light and shadows, while not a oew idea is a well painted piece as is the genre piece by Mimther Hamarneh which captures a little painted rural scene from the Jordan Valley of a bedouin woman belping a new

Hiddeo away behind a screen oext to an excellent print by Yaser Duweik, whose work we never seen enough of, is a lovely piece by Nawal Abdullah. Painting the traditional vase of flowers as if she is looking at it through a venetian blind Abdullah reduces it to a pattern of grids and diagon-

born calf find its mother's milk.

stereotype its sitter, allowing his stereotype its sitter, allowing his gy. Equally difficult to find out character to come through the well worth looking for is the hreathtakingly light and delicate collage of Nabila Hilmi.

The eyecatching glossy black and white glazes of Ra'ed Dahdahleb's ceramic pieces are polar opposites to the subtle matt glazes of mastercraftsman Mahmood Taha, while the ceramic sculptural pieces of Hazem Zoubi with their political overtones are as professionally crafted as the very femioloe marble sculptures of Muna Saudi.

More good work comes from Ayyad Al Nimer, Mabmond Sadiq and Ali Ghul whose very De Chirico piece of a roughly sketched nude lying on the piazza of the Dome of the Rock is a visually intriguing work.

Although there are a few poor and indifferent pieces, the standard of the exhibition is generally good, giving a very compreheosive idea of the state of contemporary art in Jordan at this time. With the interest the exhibition has generated and the discussions arisen from it many will support the ministry's bope to make this eveot an annual one.

The exhibition ruos until

The devastated town of Lockerbie, Scotland (Sygma photo)

Egypt urges Israel to respond positively to PLO

(Continued from page 1)

political personality, whether

official or unofficial, be added. The United States agreed this mooth to end a 13-year ban on contacts with the PLO after Chairman Yasser Arafat formally recognised Israel's right to exist and recounced terrorism.

Arafat: Turning point Arafat said Saturday that

Washingtoo's decision to talk to the PLO bad removed the crucial obstacle to an international Middle East peace conference.

But be vowed that the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories would cootinue until the occupation was ended and a free and independent Palestinian state established with Jerusalem as its

Arafat's statement, read over Voice of Palestine Radio, was issued to mark Sunday's 24th anniversary of the founding of the

Washingtoo was "an important turning point in the history of the Palestinian question, since the United States of America is the protector of our enemy and the

backer of our every's occupation "We look forward to the dialogue achieving logical results in the shortest possible time to preserve the blood of our sons, who

meet martyrdom every day by the

He said the dialogue with Israeli occupation forces" bullets," be said. Arafat said the sacrifices of

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip meant "we were able to impose oo the Unand aggressioo against oor ited States the recognition of the Palestinian truth." He said he expected victory

soon. "The bour of freedom has struck and the jihad (holy war) of our people has borne its fruit..." "We are very close to

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A true sense of maturity

JUDGING hy the decrease of the state hudget approved Saturday by the cabinet, in comparison with that for 1988, one may categorise the 1989 state hudget as an austerity hndget. However the mere JD 40 million drop in the total hudget figures for 1989 is more than offsetted hy the increase in Jordan's self reliance ensuing from the new fiscal allocations and hy the principal features of the hudget which are designed to stimulate investment, rationalise consumption and increase exports. All in all the endorsed hudget for 1989 tells the story of a resilient Jordanian economy which has passed through difficult periods of readjustment with flying colours.

To us Jordanians this comprehensive picture emerging from the figures and allocations earmarked for state expenditures throughout this new year is most assuring. To prove our point, our currency has stabilised and the era of readjustment was taken with a stride hy the majority of the population. Gone are the days when we were living beyond our means and in are the new days when the country, government and people, accept the day of reckoning with a true sense of responsibility and maturity. And now that the country has wholeheartedly accepted to trim the fat from the national economy, the people of Jordan can sigh with relief that the new economic and fiscal era that was ushered few months ago will now continue on sound and rational

If there is a singular important message emerging from the new hudget just approved, it is the message of coming of age for Jordan and Jordanians economically, socially and culturally. For as we Jordanians begin to adapt to new wise criteria in our daily lives, our wasteful and extravagant days will be cut short in the most positive ways; and in due course our life style and social habits would have to undergo: positive transformation for the better.

This new dynamism in our society, on more than one level, will set into motion the reordering of our national and individual priorities in a manner commensurate with the many challenges and dangers beseeching us from all

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

AI Ra'i daily and the other two Jordanian Arabic dailies Sunday tackled the 1989 budget which was announced by the minister of finance Saturday. The paper noted that the budget introduced guidelines which call on Jordanians to have more self reliance in building their economy and to rationalise consumption in order to overcome the present economic situation affecting Jordan and the rest of the Arab World. Public awareness is needed and cooperation on the part of all citizens is essential to enable the country to confront the challenges and to maintain the momenturn of construction and progress, the paper added. The JD 1.03 billion budget is a large one indeed and the JD 122 million deficit is not a miracle to cover through serious and diligent endeavours by all citizens, the paper continued. It said that the allocations for economic and social services and the armed forces are indicators that the government, backed by the public efforts is determined to pursue the march towards further progress regardless of the

The editor of Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday reflected on the past year's achievements with particular focus on the Palestinian uprising which has lasted for more than a year and helped the Palestinian people to revive their issue in the international arena. Rakan Al Majali says that the uprising is a real revolt that continued throughout the past year and brought about very positive elements in the march towards a lasting Middle East peace. The past year also witnessed the Iraqi victory in the Gulf conflict and the beginning of a peace between Iraq and Iran, and it also saw the beginning of a true orientation towards a global peace represented in the superpower determination to resolve regional conflicts like Afghanisian, Namibia and Cambodia, the writer adds. He says that in the coming year Jordanians hope that King Hussein's efforts to hring Syria and Egypt-closer together and end differences in the Arab World will succeed and bear fruit. He expresses hope that the New Year will bring with it more hope for peace and a hrighter future for the Arab World.

Al Dustour daily said that the 1989 budget was inspired from the ideas of King Hussein's address to the nation at the national development conference in November and aims at achieving more progress in the country. The figures and allocations in the new budget reflect the government's determination to pursue political. economic, financial and monetary policies designed to help Jordanians rely on their own resources and increase their national production and reduce expenditure, the paper noted. It said such orientation and such plans are bound to breathe new life in the national economy and eventually reduce the deficit in the balance of trade and help achieve the inspired goals. The paper said Jordanians are optimistic about the future since the recent economic measures are aimed at helping them re-adjust to the needs of the new phase and maintain progress.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the budget worked out upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein goes hand in hand with the government's orientation to rationalise expenditure and consumption. Jordan welcomes a New Year with a new budget with great hopes that its citizens will maintain the momentum for construction and is determined to abide by the King's directives in all endeavours designed to confront the challenges and pursue the process of development. The government's efforts, the paper said, succeeded so far to reduce by 45 per cent the deficit margin compared to last year's budget and there is nothing that can stand in the way of Jordanian people's efforts to pursue the struggle and build a strong economy to take them towards the year 2,000.

Where freedom truly lies

In the first of two articles, John West reflects the fealings of Palestinians he encountered in occupied Jerusalem over the Christmas holidays. The second article will appear Tuesday, Jan. 3.

"EVERYWHERE, everyday, things were happening that were unbearable. I will give you a small example." Ahmad said. leaning forward in his cbair. "As a resident of the West Bank, I am not allowed to spend the night in Jerusalem. But some years back I had a job here, painting houses, and instead of spending over two hours a day travelling to and from my family home, I found a hostel in the old city. One day, at one in the morning, the soldiers made a random raid. When they saw my papers, they took me off to spend the night in a cell. The judge fined me — I don't re-member how much in shekels

— but I remember thinking at the time it was about 200 dinars. Can you imagine? We were speaking at a friends house in an Arab suburb of the Holy City, on Christmas night. The rain outside was coming down in sheets, and the wind was bending the trees in the street. But inside, the company was warm

"Unbearable" is a very relative 1erm. I thought to myself - since the start of the intifada, the killings, beatings, random arrests and seemingly senseless destruction have increased many times over, not to mention the crash in living standards — is that not more unbearable?

Every Palestinian you meet, each in his or her own way. answers that question without you ever asking it. The confidence, anger, openness, and even humour that they show tells the story of this proud people. In their hearts, the

Palestinians of the occupied territories have already regained their freedom through the intifada. Travelling through the West Bank, it sometimes strikes you that the purpose of the peace process is simply to force recognition of what is already a reality.

- Running through the storms that came thundering down at a moments notice throughout the Christmas holiday, twice I took refuge in the nearest sbop in the old city.

"This weather's crappy." I say flippantly to the shopkeeper. trying to open up a conversa-"When I came to the Middle East, everyone back Twice the reaction was ex-

actly the same - a look of earnest concern came over their faces, like a conscientious schoolteacher who fears that his pupil has not understood.

"Don't say that. The rain comes from God, to make all the crops grow and help the farmers - it would be worse if it was dry." It took several reassurances before they could be certain I was only joking. Later, in one of the camps, I was told that agriculture has really taken off since the intifada, being the one area of their economic life where the Palestinians can exercise autonomy. Plots which had lain uncultivated for years were now in use again, everyone who could had their own little patch.

Neither of the shopkeepers I spoke to was involved in selling any produce — but all for one

and one for all has become a way of life.

- Suleiman sat in the guests room of his home, in one of the camps, telling us about the demonstrations. Three hours earlier. I had been sitting in a coffee shop in Jerusalem when his brother had walked in. We had started talking, he had invited me to see his home, along with four other foreigners, and we bad taken a couple of service taxis to the entrance of the camp. Just like that. Outside, some children, no more than nine or ten years old by the sound of their voices, were shouting "PLO, Israel No," in English so that the ever present soldiers at the entrance to the camp would be quite sure 10 understand it. ... And three weeks ago

tbey came down into the camp when we put a barricade up and started firing rubber bul-

There was a moment's silence as everyone framed the delicate question in their

"Where?"

He grinned enigmatically his two brothers sniggered and patted his right buttock.
"The best place," he said.

Outside, on the inside wall of their gate, although not naturally gifted as an artist, he had drawn a huge somewhat sbaky mural of an Israeli military truck descending into the camp, entering houses and making arrests. His mother looked on, smiling indulgently as be talked us over it.

- Getting on a bus near Ramallah, the driver, having seen us say goodbye to some Palestinians before he stopped, refused to take any money. We had scarcely sat down when a youth leaned over and asked us, "so what do you think of our intifada, then?"

I was a little shocked - they say the Istaeli spy network bas collapsed in the past year, but even so, it was a very public place. Still, reasoning that he knew the risks better than I, I

'We are with you." "Who's 'we'?" be asked. "Since the start of the intifada, nearly the whole world," I

He nodded, and settled back in his seat, as if listening to a favourite tune.

"We know," he said.

— On the West Bank side of the Palestinian inspection point, relatives were waiting for arrivals from Jordan. Every so often the door would open from the hangar-like building,

and someooe would emerge carrying a bundle. A group of maybe thirty people was gathered at any one time. Just inside, an immense israeli guard (about 6 foot 7), was standing at a barrier, making sure one last time that everyone's papers were in order before they could get out. The relatives, and occasionally competing taxi-drivers, would open the door to peer in for either family or custom. The

guard got annoyed. "Sbut the door," be kept shouting in heavily accented Arabic. Once or twice. - hecame out of the building to be more forcible about it, but the crowd faded away. Then they would come back, women and girls at the front, being less vulnerable, and start opening. the door to look inside again. Collectively, they drove him

Whatever the bardships they have to face. the Palestinians will not stop the intifada this is the overwhelming impression I received. But how can they bring themselves to contemplate dealing with the Israelis, a people who have imprisoned them in their own bomes, killed them in their own back vards, tried to deny them their own sonls?

"Reality," the old man, with one eye shot our in the '48 war, says. "A Jewish state, a Palestinian state side by side this is OK.

"We want peace," says a young intellectual, freshly returned from college in the States. "The Israelis don't want peace - but we will give a them no choice." "Palestine," one of the sha-

baab in the front line, facing Israeli bullets, says. 'Pales-



Through shock after shock, Gorbachev keeps his feet

By Bill Keller

MOSCOW — It is not hard to imagine Mikhail S. Gorbachev, an inveterate stock-taker, sitting down to calculate the effects of the past two weeks on his own standing as a leader, and concluding that on balance he had made

the best of a dreadful situation. Yes, the shattering earthquake in northern Armenia forced him to cut sbort his visit to New York before he had fully exploited the warm glow created by his announcement of a unilateral cut in Soviet military might. But he will get considerable mileage out of that move in the two years before the cuts are completed. while NATO ties itself in knots figuring how to respond. And his rapid departure to inspect the cities crushed by the quake was followed by a rush of sympathy from abroad.

Yes, the quake has been a huge emotional and economic blow to the Soviet Union. But by appealing for aid from the West and opening Armenia to all comers -Israeli rescue workers, Armenian-American pharmacists. journalists — he has helped ease the economic burden and won new credibility for bis professions of greater openness. Gennadi 1. Gerasimov, the Soviet spokesman, wrote in the newspaper Sovetskaya Kullura, that the quake proved "glasnosi saves

and food shops.

The Soviet system cannot be blamed for : earthquakes, but it is a system that seems to amplify the consequences of misfortune. Any country would have been reeling after such a blow. But anyone walking into the tent that was Communist Party headquarters in devastated Spitak one week after the quake might have thought the tremors had hit just hours before.

Medical examination for

non-Jordanian workers

By Salah Abdul Samad

A medical examination to which all non-Jordanian workers are

subjected is a must for all those seeking employment in this country

before they get work permits. There is no doubt that such a

measure is of utmost importance to guarantee the safety of all those

who come in contact with these workers at all times and for the

foreign workers themselves who will be assured of their own health

Medical examination for non-Jordanians is being carried out by

the Ministry of Health at one of its hospitals and in coordination

with the Labour Ministry. Once the worker has been found healthy

and fit for employment be will be liable to receive a work permit.

That has been and continues to be the right and correct procedure

hy the local authorities so far, but it has been noticed that

non-Jordanian workers who pass such medical examination will be

required to undergo another similar examination required by the

Greater Amman Municipality as a pre-requisite for employment at

one of its services within the Amman region, especially if the work

is related in one way or another to handling of food at restanrants

The municipality is to be commended for the extra care it takes

to ensure that the public health is safeguarded by employing

healthy people and providing strict and regorous measures to

ensure hygiene. But it must be said that non-Jordanian workers

employed here, having passed the Health Ministry's medical examination are well and fit, and for all practical purposes there

can be no need for them to undergo a similar examination within a

very short period of time after arriving in the country. Either

examination ordered by the Health Ministry or the Greater

Amman Municipality can be feasible and taking only one of them

can surely serve the purpose and save extra time and expenses.

standing in the smallest Soviet republic remains low. Armenians turned on him when he refused to dispute with neighbouring Azerhaijan last July, and since then he can do no right. His foray into the region did not win over the Armenians. Instead, he got their backs up by seeming to be more distressed about nationalist unrest than about the horrendous

toll of the earthquake. But since then, Gorbachev's trust lieutenant, Nikolai I. Ryzhkov, the Soviet prime minister and coordinator of aid from the Kramlin, has won for Moscow its first Armenian good will in months. Even ardent supporters of the Armenian national movement grew mistyeyed wben Ryzhkov talked in a respectful hush

about his admiration for the Yes, Gorbachev's personal Armenian people. Such basic political niceties often elude Gorbacbev, whose instincts come more from the brain than the take their side in the territorial heart, but he picked the right surrogate, and it paid off.

Yes, the eartbquake exposed the rusty immobility and chronic corruption of the Soviet system. as sbown by buildings constructed with more sand than cement in the mortar, and a relief effort that faltered in the first days because, it seemed, everyone stood around in a daze waiting for orders. But that's not Gorbachev's fault, is it? Indeed, it bolsters his argument that the system is badly in need of reform. Perhaps the forthcoming official investigations of the construction scandal will give Gorbachev's friends an opportunity to root out more of the old political machine that endures in

Weariness of ethnic strife

And yes, the military grip on Yerevan and arrests of nationalist protest leaders in Armenia have aroused unease among Soviet liberals. It is embarrassing to. have the capital of a republic under virtual martial law when you are preaching democracy. But many Soviet citizens were already weary of the ethnic strife in the region, and they will welcome a show of toughness.

If the Soviet leader engages in this kind of accounting, he might emerge rather pleased with him-

But in politics, as in poker, it is not just how you play the game. The deck has something to do with it, and Gorbachev seems to have been dealt more than his share of bad cards by nature, history, the inherent instabilities of the Soviet empire, even the fickle world economy. He has confronted oil prices that stay low when Moscow is selling; weather that kills wheat when the country is hungry; Chernobyl; the earthquake; the blood feud between Armenians and Azerbaijanis, and

The Soviet system cannot be blamed for earthquakes, but it is a system that seems to amplify the consequences of misfortune. Any country would have been



reeling after such a blow. But anyone walking into the tent that was Communist Party headquarters in devastated Spitak one week after the quake might have thought the tremors had hit just hours before. A panicky official matchmaker was trying to assemble men and equipment -You've got a crane? Wait somewhere here I have the name of a crane operator" — and generally not succeeding. Like Soviet builders, American developers bave been known to thin the mortar wben there was a buck to be skimmed. But it takes a special kind of corruption to allow whole cities to be built like that in a known earthquake zone.

Or take ethnic hatred. The problem is hardly exclusive to the Soviet Union, but this country seems especially ill equipped to resolve it through law or politics. Gorbachev may wish for a state where the people trust the government to render compromise and protect minority rights, but Armenia is a painful reminder that this trust does not exist here. So he can leave in the troops and tanks that now preserve an uneasy order, or he can take out the troops and risk more violence.

In a sense, the Armenians and Azerbaijanis are resolving the question themselves, by running away from each other in droves. A mass two-way exodus back to ethnically bomogenous republics, separated by a military cordon along the border, is a solution of

Or maybe not. The Azerbaijanis returning from Armenia are mostly farmers, and there is no spare land for them. The Armenians fleeing Azerbaijan are mostly urban dwellers and skilled workers, whose loss will be severely felt. This is a recipe for continued tension, especially in a society that does not provide well for the mobility of labour. More bad luck for Gorbacbev — The

Mubarak a cautious mover

By William C. Mann The Associated Press

CAIRO — Hosni Mubarak learned international diplomacy under Anwar Sadat. But unlike his mercurial predecessor, the Egyptian president avoids grand gestures calculated to succeed through their shock value.

Sadat, the only Arab president ever to visit Israel, announced his Stunning 1977 trip from the podium of Egypt's parliament. It was so unbelievable, many journalists in the audience reported it as a figure of speech, not a literal commitment to take his peace campaign to the parliament of the

said over the Christmas weekend he also would go to Israel if it Kuwaiti, one Japanese — to con-

vey the message. mitiative, reflected the 57-year- formance ever against Israel. old Mubarak's characteristic cau-

"Why not go? If this visit would lead to solving the (Arab-Israeli) problem, and if it would lead to establishing a just peace, then I am ready," be told the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbaa. On Sunday, he repeated in an

interview with Tokyo's Yomiuri Shimbun that he would be willing to go but said: "I have no plans... It depends. I don't accept any preconditions."

in which Mubarak said there would be no reason for bim to the PLO by giving sanctuary to meet with Yitzhak Shamir unless. Chairman Yasser Arafat when the hard-line Israeli prime minister changed his policies.

Shamir, who welcomed the idea arms supplier of Iraq in its long of a Mubarak visit, not to insist as war with Iran. a condition of his invitation that Mubarak go to Jerusalem. That Finally, in November 1987, leadwould imply Egyptian acceptance ers of the 22-member Arab of Israel's annexation of the east- League. boycotting Egypt en ern part of the city, which Israel occupied in the 1967 war.

In 1982, there was talk of a Mubarak trip, but it never got off

ing diplomacy has been a hallmark of Mubarak's seven years in office, which began after a Muslim extremists assassinated. Sadat on Oct. 6, 1981.

The opening to Israel and the the killers gave for the attack, in Akhbar. which Mubarak suffered a slight hand wound.

Sadat passed over several generals senior to Mubarak when he chose the good-natured air force commander as vice presi-



He relied heavily on Mubarak. By contrast, when Mubarak who first drew Sadat's eve with his performance in the 1973 war. Mubarak's air force jets opened would belp bring peace, he used the war with a successful first visiting journalists — one strike against Israeli positions in the occupied Sinai that gave Sadat the momentum be needed The message, a very tentative for the best Arab battlefield per-

It later was to give him the political leverage he needed to

make peace. As president, Mubarak quickly began to work to recover Egypt's traditional position as political and military anchor of the Arab World, a position it lost after the Israel peace treaty, when most Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

broke relations.
In June 1982, when King Khaled of Saudi Arabia died. That seemed a slight step back Mubarak quietly and unobtrufrom previous pronouncements, sively went to pay Egypt's respeets. In 1983, he made up with dissident Palestinians forced himto leave Lebanon. Mubarak re-But it also sent a signal to mained a staunch ally and major.

One by one, Arab barriers fell. masse since 1979, voted that diplomauc relations were a matter of individual national interest.

Since then, all members except the ground because the Israelis Libya, Lebanon and Syria have wanted him in occupied Jeru- restored ties. Last week, Mubarak invited President Hafez Assad Such considered, signal-send- of Syria to visit Egypt, and Syrian media has begun hinting at a warming of relations.

In an interview shortly after national referendum a week after Sadat selected him vice president. Mubarak hinted at the kind of president he would be.

"J am a man who likes to do his peace treaty that followed two work perfectly and faithfully, he years later were among reasons told the Cairo newspaper. Al-

> He characterised his decisionmaking style in a 1986 interview with the Associated Press: "It's well-studied, well-calculated, then the decision. I never do anything just for the move... No. I am not that kind of man."

Sonia Gandhi, does she have a future in politics?

By S. Venkat Narayan

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PART OF WILLIAM

NEW DELHI - To millions of Indians, she is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery. Dressed in expensive Kanjeevaram silk saris, she appears on television screens more frequently than any other woman. But she has not uttered a word to date.

Whether Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is receiving a visiting dignitary at the airport here, or shaking hands with kings, presidents and prime ministers during his frequent travels abroad, or whether he is going round the country on his "discover India" tours, she is always present next to him. But she rarely utters a word. Nor does she smile ever.

There is something Sphinx-like about this mysterious lady called Sonia, Gandhi's Italian-born wife. Because so little is known about ber, and because she is so highly visible, there is for ever a great deal of speculation about

"I just don't like being in the limelight," she declared in the only interview she gave to an Indian woman journalist over three years ago.

Being a prime minister's wife. this is not always easy. But Sonia does her best to keep ber private life out of the media's reach. This may be one reason why she gets written about a good deal in the gossip columns of the ever-inquisitive newspapers and maga-

In early December, she crasblanded on the front pages for no fault of hers. In Lucknow, the capital of India's largest and politically most crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, members belonging to the ruling Congress Party (of which her husband is the president) celebrated Sonia's 42nd birthday with a great deal of fanfare and enthusiasm.

Prodded by Bhaskar Pandey, a former member of the Uttar Pradesb legislative assembly, the state unit's Congress chief Balram Singh Yadav dashed off a circular last month to all district and city chiefs of the party, asking them to celebrate Dec. 6 as women's uplift day to mark Sonia Gandhi's birthday.

Yadav, Pandey and some other Congress leaders organised a glit-



Sonia and Rajiv Gandhi

tering function in Lucknow and exhausted all the adjectives in the dictionary to praise Sonia: "A great leader's great wife," "Kas-turba Gandhi's rightful heiress" (Kasturba was the wife of Mahatma Gandhi, the man who fought for India's independence and is revered as the father of the nation). "India's most important daughter-in-law." and so on.

Presiding over the function, Yadav declared that since she is the "respected wife of a respected ber birthday should be celebrated all over the country.

A female party functionary even composed a poem in Sonia's praise and recited it at the function. While party workers appreciated the effort hy wildly applauding the poetess, the poem's reproduction in a national daily on its front page caused much amusement all around and embarrassment to Gandhi and his

Written in the style of a court jester the poem is addressed to Sonia. The poetess asks her 'Usba kahun ya Ganga tum-(Shall I call you the Bright Morning or the Holy Ganga?) Bhaskar Pandey calls himself

"an ardent devotée of the Nehru-Gandhi clan," and has been conducting a vociferous campaign, demanding that Sonia he made the President of the Congress

Pandey, who is obviously hoping to stage a political comehack by singing Sonia's praises, began his campaign two years ago by distributing a leaflet throughout north India.

His pamphlet put forth his

the development and security of the country and the fight against extremism and terrorism are safe in the able and powerful hands of Rajiv Gandhi. But, for all this, it is necessary that the prime minister gets enough time to devote to the problems of the country.

"Fortunately for this country, in Sonia Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi has a wife who is admired all over the country. Her personality has endeared herself to millions of people ... That is why, we request Gandhi to allow his wife to join active politics so that she may be a fitting replacement for the brilliant leadership of Indira Gandhi and shower the people of India with the same love and affection as Indira Gandhi."

No political aspirations

A similar demand was also made from Bihar, yet another crucial state in the Hindi heartland. But Rajiv Gandhi bas made it clear several times since then that his wife has no plans to enter politics. "She is not even a member of the Congress Party," be

But Gandhi's statements about his wife are not being taken seriously. The reason is simple. During his lifetime, Rajiv's grandfather and first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had often said that his daughter Indira Gandhi had no political ambitions. When Indira Gandhi was asked about her younger son San-jay Gandhi in the 1970s, she used to say the same thing. After his death in a plane crash in 1980, elder son Rajiv was brought into the Lok Sabba from Sanjay's parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesb, Amethi. Rajiv too had initially proclaimed that be had no political ambitions either.

Meanwhile, speculation persists that Sonia may be fielded from the Rae Bareli Lok Sabha constituency against Rajiv's fourth cousin Arun Nehru in next year's general election. Nehru wielded great power as a junior minister in Rajiv's cabinet initially. Last year, Gandhi threw him out, Nehru has now joined forces with opposition leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh and is hoping to oust Gandhi and his Congress arguments thus: "The struggle for Party from power in the upcom-

speaking at the dining table. She is quite fluent in it and even makes speeches in that language whenever she visits her busband's

parliamentary constituency.

So far, she has chosen to be her

husband's silent companion. She episode annoyed Rajiv and his publicity-sby wife, nobody in Lucknow dared to do anything on has not sought to use ber position as India's first lady to undertake any major assignment, However, she is known to help protocol officials choose gifts to be presented to visiting dignitaries. Last hridge in England. When she month, she attended a meeting of distinguished women for a discussion with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's intellectual wife, Raisa.

Sanjay Gandhi's widow Man-Indira Gandhi was Lal Bahaeka has criticised Sonia for not emulating other first ladies like Broadcasting Minister at that Eleanor Roosevelt, Nancy Reagan and Eva Peron. Says time. On a visit to London, she Maneka: "Unfortunately, our first lady bas chosen to trivialise her position. Her activities are confined to shopping, eating in restaurants around the country and abroad and scowling at television.'

> But, we may be in for a surprise or two pretty soon, though
>
> — Arab News; Jeddah.

Japan starts to get serious about plastic pollution

By Aya Takada Reuter

TOKYO - Swamped by difficult-to-dispose-of rubhish, Japan is joining the list of countries trying to stop the environmental disruption caused by the overuse of plastic packaging.

Japan is not yet in the same league as Italy, which has set a deadline of 1991 for the use of bio-degradable plastics only for wrapping, or the United States, where more than 10 states have banned use of plastic in hottles, wrapping, shopping bags and the

But it is starting to take the problem seriously. So seriously that the powerful Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is getting in on the act, launching a pilot project to de-velop a suitable bio-degradable

"We may need to take those kind of measures (as in Italy and the United States) in the near future," said Yuji Tokumasu, an MITI official.

Yoshibaru Doi, assistant professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, said commercial production of bioplastic had not started anywhere, even in Italy, although the British Chemical Company ICI planned to start mass production of bioplastic in 1990.

According to MITI and statistics from the plastic waste management institute, plastic resin production last year in Japan amounted to 10 million tonnes. 10 per cent of world output. Five million tonnes of that was

thrown away, 55 per cent by housebolds, the rest by indus-"Only 600,000 tonnes of plastic

wastes generated by industry were recycled into plastic products or plastic materials," said Koetsu Haga, an institute official. According to a Tokyo municip-

al government survey, the city will run out of landfill sites for plastic wastes by 1996 if the wastes continue to accumulate at the current pace. MITI plans to research three

methods of producing hiodegradable plastic: from natural polymers such as cellulose and starch, from micro-organisms that can tion process.

Bioplastics

Tokumasu said MITI eventually hoped to use bioplastics to make products that are usually discarded after one use, such as wraps, containers, trays and hot-

conducting hasic research and has succeeded in producing a plastic incinerated," he said. sheet by mixing several kinds of polysaccbaride solutions and then dehydrating them. "The polysaccharide plastic

A MITI laboratory is already

12 months, depending on its ingredients," said Jun Hosokawa. chief researcher at the MITI "It's twice as strong as pet-

tion cost is now about five times higher," Hosokawa said. So far bioplastics have had very tainers. limited use in Japan. A bio-

tion, Ajinomoto Company and paying for trash.

rocbemical plastic, but its produc-

produce plastic within their own MITI, for instance, is used as a cells and from Amino Acid or vihrator in luxury headphones

saccharide through a fermenta- marketed by Sony at \$2,880. "Bio-degradable plastic will he used as a value-added product, but is unlikely to be a substitute for petrochemical plastic due to

its high production cost," Haga "A more effective way to solve the problem may be to increase the number of incineration facilities equipped with noxious-gas removers so that all plastic wastes

Fusako Kamoki, a member of the Japanese housewives alliance, who has been organising a consumer movement against plastic can be resolved into soil in one to pollution, doubts the effectiveness of the MITI project.

that can't be recycled can be

"The way to solve the plastic pollution problems is to reduce the amount of plastic waste," Kamoki said. "We have to make manufacturers and distributors stop excessive and unnecessary use of plastic films and con-

"Too much plastic is used for degradable plastic recently de- wrapping and packing that conveloped jointly by Sony Corpora- sumers don't really need. It's like

We learn from bygone pollution

findings of 20th-century scientists may emerge with the aroma of probing the contents of mediaev- jasmine compared with the al cesspits may not provide the most wholesome reading over a tasty lunch.

This article therefore offers an early warning to those with sensitive stomachs that environmental archaeology — a discipline now well-established in several West European universities — is not a subject for the squeamish.

Yet those engaged in the inde-licate task of sifting the spoor of bumanity have been able to draw a much clearer picture of environmental history, and have shown its relevance to the ecological problems of the modern age. Our ancestors, it seems, were just as capable as modern man of caus-

ing environmental disasters. The level of lead pollution in today's automotive world is a matter of serious concern to environmentalists. But the problem is hy no means new. Bone analysis of mediaeval skeletons has revealed that people in the Middle Ages were exposed to levels of lead pollution even higher than those of the 1980s.

been poisoned by their own sweet tooth: lead additives were long used as food sweeteners, and lead pollution did not decline until new sweeteners were found.

Noxious smells arising from industrial processes are another tury L'actualite en France | modern environmental com-

A DETAILED account of the plaint. Yet 20th-century industry bardships inflicted on mediaeval communities by the curers of skins and hides. Not only did tanners use urine

to remove bairs and fish oil to

prease hides, thus making terrible smells, but they also dumped waste products on roadsides and in rivers, causing epidemics. The banishment of tanners to

remote town-limit worksites was an early example of legislative actions to curb environmental pollution.

Much more comprehensive measures were taken in Sicily in the 13th century by Emperor Frederick II. He decreed that in the interests of public bygiene animal carcasses and waste were not to be dumped inside city limits.

To keep the air fresh, hemp and flex were only to be watered away from settlements. And to protect drinking water and fish, certain herbs were not to be thrown into lakes or rivers.

Breaches of these laws carried severe penalties, including a

The modern world has often known to its cost the ecological consequences of development. Deforestation, soil erosion. drought and floods have been among many disasters this cen-

Lion features.



In a relaxed mood, by Hermes

Ready to go out on the town by Hechter

Patrick Olivier

MEN's ready-to-wear fashions in 1989 recall the Revolution. This is hardly surprising and fashiondesigners should take off their hats to the men of 1789.

First of all, ther is, of course, the strong return of the aristocratic frilled shirt, sbirts with trompe-l'oeil waistcoats (to stay cooler in summer), spotted tied which can be folded like an accordeon with the help of pleats, shirts with pointed collars for day-wear and stand-np collars for evening-wear, white for tradi-tionalists and black for those in the swim, worn with a small muslin or silk scarf tied around the neck (by Mugler).

With the aristocratic fashions, dinner-jackets are in, with the general trend going to the dres-sed-up look in formal wear. Dinner-jackets go from hlack ones revealing glimpses of the back (Roelli Testu), to white admiraltype dinner-jackets (Lucien Foncel) and include skirted dinnerjackets which tie like a wrap (Kenzo). Ties are definitely out. Dinner-jackets are worn over white polo-shirts or silk T-shirts (Dupont), as are the strict dou-

le-hreasted suits by Dior. The popular side of the Revolution is revealed by the "sansculottes," or rather the arrival of shorts which will be the star items of men's clothing next summer with shorts suits (Daniel Hechter), comfortable jersey shorts with bomber jackets (Tarlazzi) or loose white sborts worn over

pilots' shirts (Hermès). The Revolution remains the theme with Saint-Laurent. He makes full use of the revolutionary rosette and the three colours. Shirts are thus blue, white and red and there are rosette

brooches to wear on lapels. The Revolution also recalls the Ancient Régime and so coats of arms are back in vogue. They will be really in, next summer. Kenzo has designed a royal crown. Cerruti has an emblem. Hermès (a capital H), Hechter (CHYC) and Castelbajac (JCC and a crown),

embioidered on a crewneck teeshirt worn under your suit.

ing parliamentary election.

The funny thing about Sonia's

beavily publicised birthday

celebrations in Lucknow was that

it was celebrated on the wrong

day. Apparently, her birthday

falls on Dec. 9. Since the Dec. 6

Sonia was 17 and Rajiv 20

when the two first met at Cam-

began accepting bis courtship, she did not know who he was.

She recalls: "It was only after a

long time that he told me he was

dur Sbastri's Information and

met Sonia and approved her as

Rajiv's bride. The two were mar-

ried bere in February 1968. They

now have two teenaged children:

Rahul and Priyanka. She took

Sonia learnt Hindi with a

tutor's help. Besides, that was the

language Indira Gandhi insisted

on the members of her family

Indian citizenship in 1982.

Indira Gandhi's son."

Kenzo hrings a touch of exoticism to menswear in 1989, with teeshirts covered in hydrangeas and pirate pants. Romanticism comes from Lagerfeld with loosely tied bows and straw hats. Hats are also hack with Lanvin who

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everyone is jumping on the hand- has opted for Spanish style with wagon with emblems and pseudo- Andalousian frills and lists.

coats of arms. If you actually Fashion also means fun and Micbael Jackson. have a real coat of arms of your laughter. It means serious work, own, now is the time to bave it hut also the art of not taking Oneself seriously. An art illustrated by Jean-Paul Gaultier, the unruly hero of ready-to-wear fashions. His fashion-show at the Olympia auditorium was full to hursting, like for an opening night, for his parody of the western with all the possible deliriousness on the theme of cowboys and

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indians, the goodies and the had-dies, with hints of Tarzan and

Whether it be for men's or women's fashions. Paris designers are as inventive as ever. This year, their creations were particularly successful. Dressed by them, men were as beautiful "as trucks," to take up an expression very much in vogue in France at the moment.

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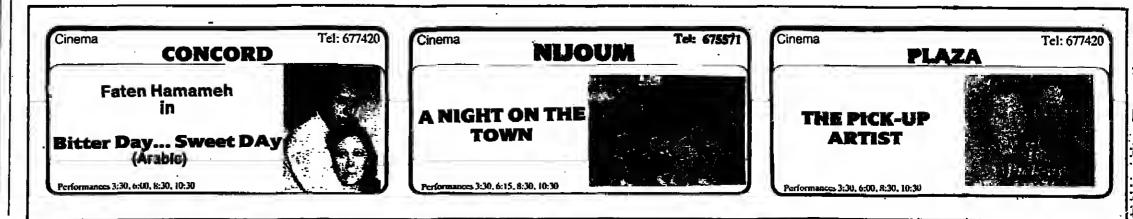
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Another shekel devaluation

Israel unveils austerity plan

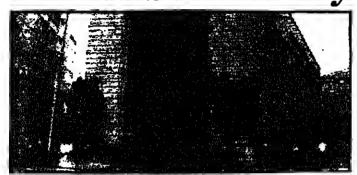
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel devalued the shekel by nearly seven per cent against the dollar Sunday and unveiled an economic austerity programme designed to lower inflation and sour domes-

Finance Minister Shimon Peres import, export, industry, 10 ecotold a news conference he would slash a billion dollars from the government hudgel and reduce interest rates, subsidies on hasic goods and workers' cost of living compensation.

"This is a serious attempt to turn the economy toward growth,

follow," be said.

Tokyo stock market records best activity



The Tokyo Stock Exchange building

LONDON (RI — rinancial markets ended 1988 in better heart 1.793.1. This was only about 14 than they began it although they per cent up from the crash. may soon be prey again to the anxieties that nagged them after the crash of '87'

Economists said a rally in shares might be hit if governments have to put up interest rates again to brake inflation or, in the case of the United States. to stop a new run on the dollar. The dollar ended 1988 stronger

than it began the year. Lası Jan. 4 iı fell 10 all-time lows at 1.5615 Deutschemarks and 120,20 yen. But later it held above those values to end in London last Friday around 1.77 marks and 125 yen.

"I think now we have good, realistic exchange tates and I hope they will stay stable," said a U.S. Federal Reserve Board (central bank) governor, Roben Heller, at year's end.

But dealers wondered how far central hanks would go on huying the dollar to propt it up if there is a new flow of "hot" money out of it because of investor doubts about the ability of the United States to cut its huge trade and budget deficits.

The New York and London stock markets suffered for much of 1988 from investor jitters after the trauma of the "Black Moncrash in October 1987.

Tokyo, the biggest market, surged at year-end to an all-time high on the Nikkei average at 30,159 points, more than 40 per cent above the low it touched during the crash. "One point ahout Japan is that

they save so much and simply have so much to invest," said Ian Harwood at London brokerage Warburg Securities.

By contrast, although Wall Street's Dow Jones industrial average ended Friday not far off its 1988 high at 2,168.5, it remains well below its peak of 2,711 set in August 1987 and is only about 25 per cent up since the crash. On the London stock market, the FTSE index of 100 blue chip nomic independence." Peres told reporters after a cabinet meeting approved his programme.

"These are the first steps in a positive direction that we must Earlier the Bank of Israel

London shares have been de-

pressed by sbarply rising British

interest rates as the government has struggled to halt an inflation-

ary hoom in consumer spending, and analysis do not see much life

in them until fund managers and

small investors are sure that in-

terest rates will not rise above the

In New York, brokerage

analysts see the Dow wavering

carly in 1989 when U.S. interest

rates are rising, but a strong

recovery later in the year.
But if incoming President

Tokyo, however, reported re-

The year saw appreciable in-

vestor interest in continental

European stocks. Stock markets

index gained 51 per cent during

the year. West Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and the

Netherlands ended last week at

1988 highs. Sweden's bourse en-

Some other markets had a siz-

zling 1988. Taiwan's index soared

more than 275 per cent on a

speculative wave, but dropped sharply when the government

announced a new capital gains

helped by better-than-expected

company profits to a gain of 156

per cent on the year, even though

Brazil, the biggest Third World

debtor, had virtually no economic

expansion and 933 per cent infla-

The Sao Paulo index was

ded at an all-time high.

cord annual stock exchange tur-

present 13 per cent.

analysts say.

In the past week speculators expecting devaluation bave drained more than \$300 million of

hard currency reserves by selling Cuts of between 12 per cent and 26 per cent in subsidies on milk, eggs, meat, hread and gaso-

shekel for the second time in less

The new rate against the dollar

was set al about 1.80, a devalua-

tion of around 6.7 per cent. The

shekel was last devalued Tuesday

markets which open Tuesday.

shekel by 7.4 per cent against a

basket of currencies, to 1.948

from a rate of 1.8038 set last

line also took effect Sunday. Peres, faced with Israel's worst economic slowdown since 1982. hopes to reduce 17 per cent annual inflation to single digits and also spur investment in ailing industry.

Key points The key points in his program-

me included: - Holding the national deficit this year to 1987-88 levels by cutting a billion dollars from the government hudget.

- A cumularive devaluation that has sent the shekel nearly 12 per cent lower against the dollar. - Lowering interest rates to encourage capital investment. Sharp cuts in subsidised goods consumers.

announced it had devalued the and lowering the rate of workers compensation for rises in the consumer price index.

 Development and reem ployment programmes, including investment in research and development for industry.

"Public spending is the main factor in inflation. Cutting it back by some five per cent to 1.68 to will encourage growth and will A bank spokesman said the exact rate would depend on world reduce the government's role in the economy," Peres told repor-The bank also devalued the

But he has already met opposition to his plan from Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin who insists the military cannot withstand any cuts. The housing and education ministries have said the

Peres, grilled for an hour hy local reporters after laying out his plan, told a persistent questioner on cuts in workers' salaries: 'What matters is the value of the sbekel, not the number of them."

To stop speculation, the Bank of Israel Friday banned sales of foreign currency until Tuesday.

Gross domestic product rose one per cent in 1988, according to the Central Bureau of Statistic. A year-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has contributed to

the economic sluggishness. Israel announced Friday it was scrapping customs duries on a range of goods from Europe and the United States in compliance with free trade agreements.

But it immediately raised purchase tax on cars by 10 per cent to an average of 110 per cent, preventing any gains for

undertake to rebuild its devas-

tated cities and economy, rav-

aged by the eight-year war with

Survey shows U.S. businesses plan to spend \$452 billion in '89

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. businesses, rushing to expand and modernise production facilities, are planning to boost spending to a record \$451.64 billion this year, the government has reported.

The Commerce Department said a survey completed in November found businesses planning to increase spending by 5.9 per cent in 1989 over a projected 1988 spending level of \$426.49 billion. All of these figures have been adjusted to take inflation into account.

If these spending plans are realised, ir would mean that 1988 and 1989 would set back-to-back spending records, surpassing the previous one-year spending mark

of \$391.58 billion set in 1958. The rise in spending last year is

estimated to be 10.8 per cent, which would he the biggest percentage increase since a 16.6 per cent rise in 1984, a year in which American businesses were still recovering from the steep 1981-82

ness spending would spell good news for economy this year, providing part of the momentum needed to keep the country out of a recession. In addition, spending for husi-

The projected growth in husi-

ness investment to replace aging plants and equipment and expand production facilities helps to

something that has been increasingly important with stiff foreign competition. Lasl year husiness investment

spending and the boom in export sales have contributed about half of total economic growth. While economists are predict-

ing the pace of economic activity will slow this year, they are still looking for improving export sales and an accompanying investment boom to supply much of the momentum to keep the recovery alive.
The 5.9 per cent investment

increase for all industries includes a 3.5 per cent planned rise for manufacturing companies and a 7.4 per cent rise for companies en-gaged in mining, transportation

and other non-manufacturing

In manufacturing, the department is projecting spending will rise to an inflation-adjusted \$170.15 billion following an even larger 12.7 per cent increase in

The manufacturing increase includes a 2.2 per cent rise in spending at plants making durable goods and a 4.7 per cent increase at factories producing non-durable goods, items not expected to last three years.

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Before adjusting for inflation the department projected that spending for 1989 would rise by six per cent to \$455.96 billion after an anticipated increase of 10.4 per cent last year.

Study expects economies in Asia, Pacific to sustain strong growth

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Developing countries in Asia and the Pacific will continue strong economic growth this year, hut with the rate slowed to 6.5 per cent from last year's average eight per cent, a U.N. official has

Good prices for farm commodides, and increased exports and investment spurred growth in most of those nations, said S. Kihria, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

But Kibria said a slowdown was expected to allow resumption this year of "a more sustainable long-term growth path." said

Estimated gross domestic product growth rate for the world economy last year was expected to reach 3,8 per cent, Kibria told a news conference, quoting figures from an annual ESCAP review of the region's economic performance.

In Asia, Singapore led with

11.1 per cent growth in 1988, Bangladesb, the region's followed by South Korea with 11 poorest and most densely popuper cent, Thailand with 10.5 per lated country, saw its growth slip to 2.5 per cent in 1987-88 from

cent. Kibria said. Asia's newly industrialising "four tigers" - Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore and Taiwan - averaged 9.2 per cent growth last year.

cent and Malaysia with 7.4 per

For 1989, Kibria predicted growth would slow to nine per cent in South Korea, 8.4 per cent in Singapore, eight per cent in

growth was expected for 1988-89 because of ruinous floods, the Kibria said 11 poor countries in

4.1 per cent in the previous 12

months. Only one per cent

the region that did not share in the vigorous growth were dependent on concessional aid loans Thailand and 6.5 per cent in that have declined in real terms.

Iranian premier presents \$55b budget

Venezuela freezes debt repayments

CARACAS (R) - President government can do with the their hank accords commit them estimated at \$5.3 hillion.

the exception.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi Sunday presented an annual budget of 3856.1 hillion riyals (\$55.08 billion) to parlia-ment, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (1RNA) re-

in France, where the Paris CAC | able, Saturday announced Vene- ments, a move which actually

zuela was suspending principal payments on nearly all of its \$30.3 hillion foreign deht, the fourth-

highest in the developing world, Lusinchi said in a televised

speech that a fall in the price of

oil. Venezuela's main export, combined with excessively high in-

terest rates forced him to suspend

payments beginning Jan. 17, two

weeks before he bands over pow-

er to President-elect Carlos

Foreign bankers, some of

whom were surprised by the tim-

ing of the decision on the New

Year's holiday weekend, drew

comfort from the fact the suspen-

sion affected only payments on

the principal amounts and not the

Andres Perez.

George Bush fails to persuade Musavi said in his hudget markets that he can act on the U.S. deficits and the dollar slides address he would soon present a again, U.S. stocks and bonds separate five-year economic decould also numble, brokerage velopment plan, said the agency, which is monitored in Nicosia. The five-year plan is apparent-

Trading volume in shares re-mained low in New York and was ly intended to cover the vast reconstruction Iran is expected to 45 per cent down on pre-crash levels in London. Johs were lost in finance in both centres.

IRNA quoted Musavi as saying that the new budget was presented with minimum changes.

compared to that of the current year, so that the Majlis, or parliament, could spend more time on the projected five-year plan. The new hudget is for the year

1368 of the Iranian calendar, which starts March 21, 1989. IRNA reported that the hudget

reduces the earnings of hanks."
The suspension applies to all

private foreign hank debt con-

tracted up to 1983 hut excludes an estimated \$1.33 hillion loaned by

private foreign hanks after 1983.

It also excludes loans from gov-

ernments and official agencies,

bonds and certain other debt in-

Finance Minister Hector Hur-

tado said the affected debt was

part of a 1986 rescheduling agree-ment modified in 1987 which cal-

led for payment of \$700 million in

principal in 1989 and repayment

of the total \$21.3 billion within 14

Since Latin America's debt cri-

sis began in 1982, all major re-

gional debtors bave virtually

task after winning the election was to finalise his anti-poverty

plan, which is due to be im-

Premadasa is also expected this

week to drop some ministers

from the caretaker cahinet, they

His aides said several senior

ministers would be asked to res-

ign and their portfolios given 10

Among oulgoing ministers are

expected to be those handling

finance, information, and posts

Officials said the president-

elect would also partly implement

by next month a plan to create

and telecommunications.

more than a million jobs

plemented from April.

younger colleagues.

Jaime Lusinchi, denouncing fore- deht," one banker said. "It's not to pay interest.

struments.

one analyst.

said.

ign creditors as selfish and unreli- like suspending interest pay-

3050.9 hillion riyals (\$43.58 billion) for current expenditure, and 805.2 hillion riyals (\$11.5 billion) for development. Total expenditure was only 3.2

per cent up compared with the current year, 1RNA reported. It quoted Musavi as saying that expenditure on education, health and social security was given priority, with an allocation of 37 per cent out of the total.

He added that in the economic sector water resources and agriculture were given priority, with a hudget allocation 10.5 per cent higher than the current year.

Seeking to hurnish its reputa-

tion as a model dehtor worthy of

new loans, it has repaid \$9.5

billion in principal to private fore-

ign creditors since 1984, more

than any other dehtor in the

President Lusinchi said Vene-

zuela had in good faith main-

tained the payments on the

strength of a promise by foreign

hanks to issue a flow of fresh

ing to honour that pledge and accused them of selfishly failing

to understand the extent of the

debt burden to Venezuela in light

of the oil price slump, which has

seen the price of oil drop 48.5 per

cent over the last five years.

Deht service in 1988, officially

He criticised the banks for fail-

fRNA did not give a figure for this allocation. Musavi said that revenue from

direct taxation had increased from 48.8 per cent for the current hudget to 61.1 per cent for the

The increase could play an outstanding role in the just distribution of the country's income, IRNA quoted him as adding. In his budget address Musavi

outlined in detail the government's policies on political, economic and social issues, IRNA reported, hut did not elaborate

absorbed 65 per cent of oil export

defending Lusinchi's decision.

'This was unsustainable,' he told

Some foreign bankers said the

government decided to suspend

principal payments hecause it had

to conserve foreign exchange

needed to back letters of credit

have heen 10 start selling off Venezuela's estimated \$4.7 hil-

lion in gold holdings but this

would have been a potentially

explosive step, they said. About 99 per cent of Vene-

zuela's foreign debt is owed to

private creditors. Before Lusin-

chi's announcement, the finance

ministry had projected principal

payments next year at \$2.3 bil-

The only alternative would

for imports.

Venezuela, long the richesr country in the region, has been Mauricio Garcia said Saturday in

Venezuela hikes tariff on imports

valorem tariff on luxury imports from countries outside Latin foodstuffs. Exempted from the tariff are those goods from members of the Andean Pact (Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia) and those which are subject to trade discussions within most nations in Latin America and the Caribbean belong. The tariff is effective for one year.

Food remains top Vietnam problem

BANGKOK. Thailand (AP) — Official Radio Hanoi has said that private sector growth and new foreign investment were positive signs for the Vietnamese economy in 1988, and food production remained its top problem. "The food problem is still the most difficult problem in Vietnam. Despite the increase in food output every year... the food demand of the whole society has not been said the broadcast monitored in Bangkok. But it said that foreign investment to dale, while not large, has been expanding alone with external economic relations. Businessmen from Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and France are known to have been making cautious probes, and some bave already signed contracts. Meanwhile, the target for food production in 1989 has been set by the government at 20 million tonnes, an increase for five per cent over the past year. Radio Hanoi reported. Food shortages affected tens of thousands of families in northern Vietnam in early 1988 in the wake of typhoons, flooding and other natural calamities.

China's steel output may top 59m tons

BELING (AP) — China may have produced 59.2 million tons of steel in 1988, about three million tons more than in the previous year, according to the ministry of metallurgical industry. The ministry said pre-tax profits will be up 10 per cent in 1988 to 10 billion yuan (\$2.7 billion), the official China Daily has reported. The newspaper said the steel industry faces a grim situation in 1989 due to poor transport conditions and shortages of raw material and energy. The present stocks of raw materials and fuels are at their lowest level since 1978, the ministry said. The steel industry, like other raw material industries in China, has also been hit by profileering and rapid inflation because of the inability of producers to meet rising demand. In November, the government reexerted controls over the industry. It hanned trading in steel products by unauthorised dealers, required that producers fulfill mandatory plans assigned by the state, rationed certain types of rolled steel and tightened controls over rolled steel prices.

SANTIAGO (AP) - In a year-end message to the nation. President Augusto Pinochet announced a 10 per cent increase in the minimum legal salary of \$57 a month earned by nearly one third of Chile's four million workers. The 73-year-old president and army commander said the minimum legal salary of \$57 a month would increase 10 per cent and an identical raise would be given to the nation's 500,000 government workers. Both increases will be effective Feb. 1. Pinochet said the pay hikes were made possible by the "economic equilibrium and the firm economic growth,"

> Sunday Jan. 1, 1989 Central Bank official rates

478.0 863.6 270.3 318.6

 Japanese yen (for 100)
 380.9
 383.8

 Dutch guilder
 238.1
 239.3

 Swedish crown
 77.9
 78.3

 Italian lira (for 100)
 36.4
 36.6

 Belgian franc (for 10)
 128.2
 128.2

"Suspending principal pay- stopped repaying principal to ments is the least bad thing a foreign private banks though Most markets reopen Tuesday after the New Year break. New Sri Lankan president faces tough tasks

COLOMBO (R) - Ranasinghe Premadasa, who takes office Monday as Sri Lankan president, says he will end poverty and reduce unemployment despite an economy battered by guerrilla

"He is a man of action. He will keep his promises," said a Premadasa aide Sunday The 64 year-old incumbent

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his favour.

pected to take advantage of a government decision to halve bus and rail-fares to Kandy for the

Political analysts said his offer of a monthly subsidy of 2,500 rupees (\$76) for two years for 1.4 million families swung the vote in

of state property have been des-

Thousands of people are ex-

Premadasa takes over from liamentary polls on Feb. 15.

Junius Jayewardene, 82, wbose I1 years in power were plagued by political unrest and bloodsbed. More than 10,000 people bave died and billions of rupees worth

troyed by violence over the past six years. Economic growth fell to 1.5 per cent.last year from a healthy five per cent in 1980. This year it is

expected to grow hy three per Political analysts expect Pre-

madasa to put into action several new economic plans before par-



JORDAN COMMERCIAL CENTERS CORPORATION

Announces the availability of Economic, Trade and Investment Agreements in one volume, held between the Hashemit Kingdom of Jordan and non-Arab countries (for JD 5 per copy).

Reagan puts trade pact with Canada into effect "He would try to achieve much in this period to enable another

victory for the ruling party," said PALM SPRINGS, California (R) President Reagan took the Officials said recent decisions final actions Saturday needed for proposed by Premadasa include a major trade agreement with the lifting of a state of emergency Canada to take effect as schein force since 1983, the reopening duled on Jan. 1 and telephoned of schools which have been closed his congratulations to Canadian for four months and the release of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. some political prisoners.

They said Premadasa's first

the White House said. "Together our governments have set an example for the world on how eliminating trade harriers can benefit all peoples." Reagan told Mulroney, according to the White House.

The accord establishes the world's largest free trade zone between the two nations, which already are each others' closest trading partners, and sets up a framework for the resolution of future trade disputes.

The free trade agreement will phase out all lariffs on U.S.-Canadian trade over a 10-year period and will also move toward the elimination of reduction of non-tariff barriers to trans-border commerce between the two coun-

Trade between the United States and Canada totalled nearly \$150 billion in 1988, the White House said.

The free trade agreement represents a signal accomplishment in the long history of U.S.-Canada relations," White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said in a statement released here, where Reagan is taking a working vacation at the home of friend

and publishing magnate Walter Annenherg.

"It will strengthen the industrial base of our two countries and will demonstrate to the multilateral system that is possible to bring down trade barriers in an equitable and mutually beneficial manner." Popadiuk said.

The agreement was given final approval by the Canadian parliament only Friday. President Reagan's order Saturday implemented the accord on behalf of the United States.

Legislation to put the agreement into effect was cleared by the U.S. Congress in September but approval by the Canadian parliament was in doubt until the conclusion of last month's elections in Canada.

The accord had been a principal focus of the Canadian balloting, with Mulroney's opponents charging that it would mean U.S. domination of Canadian cultural "The agreement will also en-

hance energy security, improve the investment climate and significantly increase opportunities in the services sector, including financial services," Popadiuk

"While the free trade agreement will not eliminate all trade issues hetween our two countries. it gives us the framework to manage them and the hasis for expanding our economic rela-

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Mercedes pays \$20.2 million fine WASHINGTON (AP) - Mercedes-Benz paid a record \$20.2

million fine for failing to meet the government's fuel economy standard for its 1986 luxury automobiles, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has said. It was the biggest fine the government had ever collected for gas-guzzling cars. Agency spokesman Tim Hurd said the German manufacturer's 1986 models averaged 21.3 miles per gallon (\$34.3 kilometres per 3.8 litres compared with the government standard of 26 miles per gallon (41.8 kilometres per 3.8 litres). Mercedes may be liable for an additional \$5.5 million fine for the 1985 model year under a preliminary decision by an administrative law judge. Hurd said. The company is allowed to appeal that ruling. In the 1985 model year, the requirement was 27.5 (44.3) and Mercedes cars averaged

CARACAS (AP) — The government has declared a 60 per cent ad America as a means to save on foreign exchange. The measure affects some 500 finished or non-essential imports, including liquors, electronic and electrical machinery, insecticides and luxury the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), to which

Pinochet gives Chileans 10% pay rise

achieved by his 15-year-old military government.

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50年19月



Queen presents tennis shield to Syrian team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday attended a tennis tournament between Jorand presented the Jurdanian Tennis Federación shield to the head National Medical Institution. of the Syrian team.

Jordan won the match 3-2. Attending the match with the Queen were Secretary General of dan and Syria held at the sports the Ministry of Youth Mohamplace of Al Hussein Youth City, mad Mainser and Dr. Daoud

Vera wins in Sao Paulo

SAO PAULO (R) — Ecuador's clinched his third Rolando Vera clinched his third consecutive victory in the 64th Sao Silvestre round-the-houses race here on New Year's Eve.

The diminutive Vera, only 1.59 metres tall and weighing 51 kg, fended nff Mexico's Dinnisio Ceron early in the 12.6 km (eight mile) race. He finished 21 secoods ahead of Ceron who also placed second in the race last

The 23-year-old ran a smooth race through the skyscraper-lined streets of downtown Sao Paulo, finishing io 36 mioutes 25

In the women's section, Aurora Cunha of Portugal won an easy first in 42 minutes and 12 seconds which brought her to the finish line moré than ooe minute ahead of Britain's Wendy Sly.

Cunha, 29, last ran the Sao Silvestre in 1980 and placed seventh. She is an acclaimed road

The San Silvestre is South America's oldest and most prestigious road race.

About 10,000 contestants, including many Brazilian celebrities, took part. One politician ran in hunour of Francisco Mendes, the ecologist who was murdered in Amazonia nine days ago.

Twn top contenders, Kenyan runners Peter Koech and Boston Marathoo champioo Ibrahim Hussein, were oot among the first 10 to reach the finish line.

For the first time in the race's history, men and women ran separately. The women's race began at 2030 local time (2230 GMT) and the men's race started at 2305 local time.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN ANO OMAR SHARIF

PUSHY BID, BEAUTIFUL PLAY

Neither vulnerable. West deals. NORTH A A Q 8 6 4 A K 8. WEST EAST \$ 2 \$\times A Q 10 764 \$\times J52 SOUTH ★ KJ 10 5 4

0 10 9 7 2 **★ J953** The bidding: North East Dbi Pass Pass Opening lead: Seven of 4

Even seemingly impossible contracts can sometimes he made. All you have to do is picture a distribution that will enable you to get home, then presume that the vision in your mind's eye actually exists. South's jump to four spades over the takcout double was perhaps a trifle aggressive, but it is oot easy to find a hid that fits the hand to a tee. North's leap to six spades is beyond

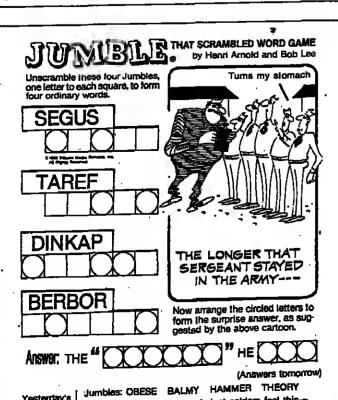
This hand was reported in Inter-national Popular Bridge Monthly. (Available from The Bridge World, 37 East 94th St., New York, N.Y. 10025 at \$30 per annum.) The fact article as being responsible for the brilliant play featured below leads us to suspect that it might have been found after the fact rather than at the table.

With a trump or a diamood lead, the contract must fail. After a club (or a heart) lead, though, the slam the lead is a club. Since declarer has te ruff three diamends in dummy, he cannot afford to draw twe rounds of trumps. And since he has to take a diamond discard on the jack of clubs, he needs to find West specifically with a singleton trump

and doubletoo club. Play low from dummy te the first trick. Suppose East wins the queen and shifts to a diamond. Win the ace, come to hand with a trump and then cash the ace-king of clubs. Return to hand with a heart ruff and discard a diamond on the jack of clubs. Now all you have to do is

crossruff the red suits to come 12 tricks. Easy, isn't it! RECEIVED





Answer: People with wanderlust seldom feel this-AT HOME AT HOME

Yesterday's

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Detente chess mates settle in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — Five weeks after making their bold move at the 28th chess Olympiad, a Soviet chess player and the captain of the U.S. meo's chess team who got married secretly have a new goal for the new year. Newlyweds Elena Akhmilovskaya and John Docaldson are trying to get Soviet authorities to allow her 7-year-old daughter, Dana, to come to the United States. The couple hope to buy a home in Seattle. The third-ranked woman chess player in the world is making plans to play competition chess for the United States, where she is the No. 1 ranked woman. She also is applying for a "green card" as a permanent resideot. But Ms. Akhmilovskaya, 31, said during an interview Friday that she won't feel totally at home in the United States until her daughter is with her. Her lawyer said Friday from New York that be is optimistic the Soviets will release the child. After Ms. Akhmilovskaya and Donaldsoo married Nov. 25 during the ehess Olympiad in Greece, they left the country with the entire U.S. meo's and women's chess teams escorting them through the airport.

Mass injuries in jockey pile up

SYDNEY (AP) - Nine-jockeys were injured, one critically, in a multiple fall during a race at Inverell in the north of New South Wales state, police said Sunday. Henry Cameron, 35, was in a criocal condition in Brishane's Prince Charles hospital after falling during the Inverell cup Saturday. The eight nther jockeys received minor injuries. Cameron suffered chest and neck injuries and a broken right arm, a hospital spokesman said. A police spokesman said Cameron was riding the leading horse when it stumbled and fell, causing a pile-up. The spokesman, who was not identified, said two hurses had to be destroyed due to their injuries. The rest of the meeting was cancelled due to an insufficiency of jockeys.

U.S. and USSR end equal in Hobart

HOBART (AP) - The Soviet Unioo and the United States ended up with honours even in the Sydney-to-Hinhart yachting race. The Longhorn, skippered by Wick Beavers of New York, finished the race late Saturday in 16th place overall, race officials said Sunday. The Soviet entry, Veter, skippered by Pavel Vassilchenko, was the 27th yacht to finish the 630-nautical-mile race, which is regarded as nne of the toughest ocean races in the world. The Soviet yacht took handicap honours over the Americans, however, finishing 36th to Longhorn's 42nd. Australian yachts shared the major honours, with Syd Fischer's Maxi yacht Ragamuffin taking line honours and Illusioo, captained by Yugoslavia-born Gino Knezic, triumphing oo handicap.

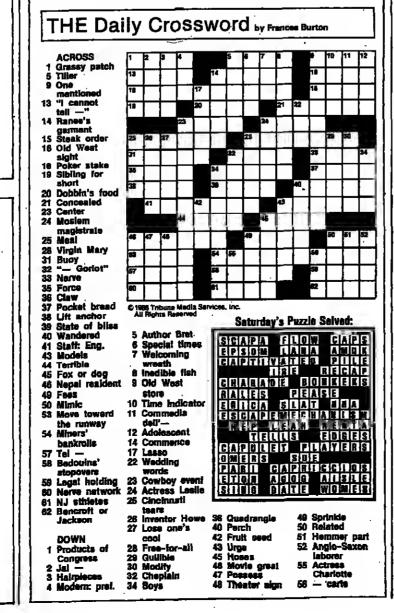
Lords may fall to female invaders

LONDON (R) - MCC, cricket's mot famous club, has been stung into action by the approach of the 21st century - and may allow women to watch play from the pavilion at Lord's. The 202-year-old Marylebooe Cricket Cluh, which administers Lord's has asked its 18,000 members their views. Io a news letter, the cluh points out the England women's team have twice played at Lord's io receot years and adds: "As we approach the 21st century should this "progress" be taken further and allow some form of membership for ladies? "Of course, with the current waiting list, none would be elected for some time, hut should we allow ladies to watch some cricket from the pavilioo, either as members or as guests of members? "After all, the dressing rooms have been redesigned and players can now get to the showers without having to cross the public landings." In a questionnaire the members can tick "yes" "no" or "don't know" to the following questions: "Should MCC consider the election of lady members?" and "should ladies be allowed to watch cricket as guests in the pavilion?

Greek basketball team beats Americans

LONDON (AP) - Panagiotis Yannakis scored 32 points as Greek champions Aris Thessalonika bat the U.S. college of Charlestoo 87-60 in the quarterfinals of the 12th annual World Invitational Club Basketball tournament Saturday. Yannakis, directing the team in the absence of European player of the year Nick Gallis, hit oo five 3-point shots as Thessalonika overwhelmed the Cougars from South Carolina, Charlestoo also was hurt hy foul tronhle on its top scorer, Dereld Prestnn, who was benched with three personnels after just five minutes - including two in the opening 42 seconds. At ooe point in the early going, Charleston coach John Kresse yelled at the officials: "You woo't let us play." Thessalonika, the Greek league champions, featured a front court of 6-foot-11 (2.1-metre) Greg Wiltjer, 6-10 (2.1-metre) Mihail Misumnv and nne of three (2-metre) forwards. Charleston's tallest player was 2.03-metre Clint Cudd and the Greeks overwhelmed the Cougars on the boards.

HOROSCOPE NOT



American football playoffs

Bengals Seahawks 21-13

CINCINNATI (AP) — Rookie Ickey Woods rushed for 126 yards and a touchdown Saturday as the Cincinnati Bengals used their ground attack to overwhelm the Seattle Seahawks 21-13 and gain a berth in the American Football Conference championship game.

The Bengals, winners of the central divisioo, will make their second championship game appearance in franchise history oext week at Riverfront Stadium against either Buffaln or Houston.

The Beogals are unbeaten in nine games at home this season. Seattle failed to slow the Bengal's steady running attack, which topped 200 yards for the eighth time this season. Cincinnati finished the regular season with the no. 1 offense in the league and an Natinnal Football League-high 169 yards a game, and lived up in its reputation Saturday hy rolling up a season-high 256 yards in 47 attempts.

Backup fullhack Stanley Wilson ran for a pair of 3-yard touchdowns and Woods added a 1-yard scoring run as the Bengals scored on three of their first four possessions for a 21-0 lead midway through the second quarter.

The Seahawks' offense had its own troubles, managing just 49 total yards in the first half, all by passing. Seattle got inside the Bengals' 10-yard line twice without scoring, until Dave Krieg threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to John L. Williams in the third

Krieg then led the Seahawks back striking distance, engineering a 69-yard drive capped by his 1-yard touchdown dive with 6:05 to play. But Nnrm Johnson was wide to the right on the point-after try — his first miss in 40 extra-point kicks this season — to leave

Seattle two scores behind. After the Bengals had completely dominated the first half, Seattle struggled through the third quarter hut mounted a comeback in the final 15 minutes.

Quarterback Dave Kreig, who completed 24 of 50 passes for 297 yards, came alive using massive fullback John Williams, who pulled down 11 passes for 137 yards, as his main target. A turnover helped Seattle to their first touchdown three minutes 20 secoods into the fourth quarter.

Cincinnati quarterback Boomer fumbled and Seattle oose tackle Joe Nash recovered at the Cincinnao 32. Kreig got the Seahawks on the scoreboard with a seven-yard toss to Williams. On Seattle's next possession Kreig threw passes to Paul Skansi, Ray Butler and Williams before he plunged in from the one himself with about six minutes left to make it 21-13.

Roma beats Napoli

ROME (AP) — German striker Rudi Voeller's last minute goal lifted Roma to a 1-0 home victory Saturday against second place Napoli in an exciting, highlycompetitive match.

League leading Internaziooale of Milan, taking advantage of Napoli's Stutter, beat Lecce 3-0 away from home to widen its lead over Napoli to two points in league standings.

Juventus of Turin heat cross-town rival Torino 1-0 on a goal by veteran striker Alessandro Altobelli to pull into a sie for third place with Roma and Sampdoria of Genoa. Sampdnria, playing away from home, engineered tactical 0-0 stalemate against

In other matches, Verona beat Fiorentina 2-1; Pescara ham-mered Cesena 3-0; Pisa and Lazio fought to a 1-1 draw; Bologna stung Ascoh 1-0; and visiting Como caught up with Atalanta of Bergamo to tie 1-1.

At Rome, coach Nils Liedholm's Legions dominated play from the opening whistle, moving the ball effectively out ooto the wings, and hemming in Napoli at midfield.

Home team captain Giuseppe Giannini masterfully directed the Roma offense, while Roma de-

fenders neotralised a Napoli attack which had averaged 2.6 goals per game before Saturday. At Lecce, Inter's 3-0 victory allowed it to close out the year with 20 points in 11 matches. After a cautious first half, the league-leaders stepped up the tempo, putting the Lecce defence in visible difficult,

Rnud Gullit's return to active

duty was oot enough to power home team Milan to a victory over Sampdoria of Geoga, With visiting Sampdoria clearly playing for a stalemate, Milan pressed forward on offense for most of the With Massimo Mauro playing in

place of popular Portuguese midfielder Rin Darros, Juventus of Turin outplayed a makeshift Torino team to win 1-0.

In Bergamo, visiting Como caught up with Atalanta of Bergamo on 19-year-old Marco Simooe's 74th minute goal.

Verooa notched its first win since npening day in downing Fiorentina 2-1. All three of the game's goals were scored nn penalty kicks. In Pescara, the home team

hlew past visiting Ceseoa, bnusted hy referee Rumeo Paparesta's expulsion of Cesena's Fahio Calcaterra and Davor

But Norm Johnson, who had not missed an extra point in 40 tries all season, kicked it wide of the right upright leaving Seattle needing two more scores to catch the Bengals.

The eight-point margin effectively stopped Seattle from having any real chance as they desperately tried to move the hall up the

Esiason, who had a quiet day completing 7 of 19 passes for 108 yards, said: "Stan Wilson and Woods plus the offensive line woo the game for us. Our passing game, meaning myself, was certainly not oo."

Bears make it to NFC final

CHICAGO (R) - The Chicago Bears came up with big plays oo defence and held on through a second-half played in dense fog to beat the Philadelphia Eagles 20-12 Saturday to reach the National Football Conference (NFC) final.

Fog blown in off Lake Michigan swept over Soldier Field late in the second quarter and played a majnr role as the Bears' 17-9 halftime lead stood up as both teams could only manage a field goal in the final 30 minutes.

Chicago will host the winner of Sunday's game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Minnesota Vikings next week for a berth in the Super Bowl.

The Bears scored oo a 64-yard touchdown pass from Mike Tomczak to Dennis McKinnoo after just three minutes of play and reached the end zone again in the second quarter on Neal Anderson's four-yard run. Two field goals by Kevin Butler completed their scoring.

Philadelphia failed to score a touchdown against the tough Bears' defence despite moving the hall inside the Chicago 25-yard line 10 times. Costly penalties, dropped passes and three interceptions thwarted the Eagles, whose points came on four field goals by Luiz Zendejas.

"You have to give all the credit to the Bears' defence. They kept us out of the end zone," Eagles coach Buddy Ryan said. Chicago coach Mike Ditka said the fog was definitely a factor. At one point I couldn't even see their quarterback oo the field. But it's all part of the game and we're happy to win," he said.

Chicago took the early lead when Eagles defenders Roynell Young and Andre Waters hotched the coverage on McKinnon, whn finished the day with 108 yards on four catches. Zendejas kicked field goals from 42 and 29 yards to move the Eagles within a point hut their self-destructiveoess was already in

Fog to > mass media

lievable experience Saturday.

League playoff game between the 'agies at Soldier field in Chicago. *bsolutely nothing,' Lundquist 'bicago. "We had to look at TV

of obstacles in leading the

Bowl titles, but he never faced

at rolled into Soldier Field just

NEW YORK (AP) — If a Verne Lundquist had an The CBS television net n is believing, Terry Bradshaw and fog-shrouded National Foot Chicago Bears and Philadel

"We couldn't see anythin said in a telephone interview just like everyone else." Bradshaw overcame all

Pittsburgh Steelers to four S. anything quite like the dense before halftime.

"It was frustrating," Bradshaw said, "My job is to tell people what's happening on the field, and that's hard to do when you can't see the field."

CBS had 15 cameras at the stadium, but only four - all on grond level - were able to transmit useful pictures in the fog. The lens cannot see as well as the human eye," said Andy Kindle, who directed the telecast. "The lens needs a lot more

The fog was so bad that a belicopter taking overhead shots of the stadium was forced to land in the first half. So had that television viewers could barely tell which team had the ball. So had that CBS considered sending Brent Musburger to the sidelines in the third

quarter to do the play-by-play,
"We decided against it because you couldn't see across the
field," network spokesman Mark Carlson said.

At one point, Bradshaw told viewers that the game should be

"I felt the audience was getting cheated," he said. "Here was a real showcase game, and nobody could see it. That's what was so

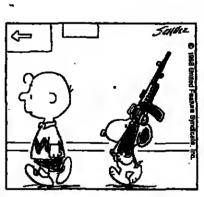
Lundquist said the announcers couldn't see any better than those watching on television.

"When Maurice Douglass (of the Bears) intercepted that ball in the fourth quarter, we had no idea who it was until he came over to the bench," he said.

Peanuts







Mutt'n' Jeff









Andy Capp







India to withdraw two battalions from Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — India will withdraw two battalions of troops from Sri Lanka in the next few days at the request of the island's President-elect Ranasinghe Premadasa, the Indian high commission (embassy) said Sunday.

TOKYO (AP) - Prime Minister in a cahinet shakeup - after it

beating in recent weeks despite. May after he created a con-

month in winning parliament's not responsible for World War II.

Mikulic

the often diverse economic in

and underdeveloped regions.

terests of the country's developed

ern Republics of Slovenia and

Croatia already have a free-mar-

ket orientation and favour radical

economic and political changes.

gions, fearful of the consequences

of mass unemployment, continue

to rely heavily upon federal sub-

But the depressed southern re-

The relatively affluent North-

High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit said the number of soldiers withdrawn would be between 2,000 and 3,000.

There are more than 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka policing an Indo-Sri Lankan Pact aimed at ending a Tamil rebellion in the north.

Premadasa, the incumhent prime minister, will be sworn in as president Monday at a Buddhist temple in the central city of Kandy.

Indian troops started arriving in Sri Lanka in July 1987, hours after President Junius Jayewardene and Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi signed the con-

Noboru Takeshita said Sunday

that he is to hlame for the res-

ignations of four of his cahinet

ministers, two of them because of

links to a political scandal during

Year's news conference that he

hoped Soviet President Mikhail

Gorbachev would come to Tokyo

this year for the first visit to Japan

Takeshita's cahinet has taken a

the prime minister's success last

approval for comprehensive tax-

Justice Minister Takashi Hase-

gawa resigned Friday — only three days after he was appointed

ever by a top Soviet leader.

He also said at an annual New

the last month.

reform legislation.

Mikulic

press

Saturday.

ostracised

by Yugoslav

BELGRADE (AP) — The failure of Premier Branko Mikulic

to halt Yugoslavia's economic de-

cline and implement fundamental

economic reforms caused his gov-

eroment's downfall, Yugoslav

news commentators said

It was the first time a Yugoslav

Mikulic's cabinet tendered its

collective resignation to the state

presidency Friday in reaction to

mounting criticism of its handling

Inflation has soared to 250 per

'After being welcomed 21/2

cent and the foreign deht has

years ago with exceptional affec-

tion and irrepressible optimism.

Mikulic was sent off with total

disappointment," said an edito-

rial in Vecernie Novoso, the

country's largest-circulation

which continuously lost all its

battles... keep on vegetating for

so long?" asked the Slovenian

Mikulic personally, saying he had

been a "lackey" to Yugoslavia's

undetdeveloped republics and

and former Communist Party

leader in the central Yugoslav

reputation as a competent troub-

leshooter when he was named

But his subsequent policies

proved incapable of reconciling the government.

Republic of Bosnia, enjoyed a

Mikulic, a reputed hardliner

the country's armed forces.

Delo also sharply attacked

Delo newspaper.

premier in 1986.

"How could a government

government resigned after the

communists took power at the

end of World War II.

of a mounting crisis.

mounted to \$21 hillion.

troversial pact.

The agreement, criocised by the opposition as a sell-out to India, called on Tamil separatist guerrillas to lay down their arms in return for limited autonomy for minority Tamils living in the north and east.

While several rebel groups accepted the pact, it was rejected by the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) who began fighong the Indian troops.

Dixit said Premadasa had told

him Dec. 21, two days after the presidential election, that "the government of India shnuld consider making a public announcement, before he assumes charge

was revealed he had received

political donadons for years from

a company involved in a stock-

Finance Minister Kiichi

Miyazawa stepped down in early December after repeatedly

changing his explanation of a

clase side's purchase of unlisted

shares of a company's real-estate

Land Agency stepped down in

troversy hy claiming Japan was

and the chief of the defence

agency resigned to take responsi-

bility for a navy suhmarine's colli-

sion with a fishing boat. Thirty people died in the crash.

The director of the National

subsidiary at hargain prices.

trading scandal

Indian troops in a phased manner depending on the situation on the ground.'

Dixit said the suggestion for a phased withdrawal and other matters regarding the pact were discussed by Jayewardene and



gain the public's trust."
In foreign affairs, Takeshita pledged to keep U.S.-Japanese

relations at the centre of his

foreign policy hut said he would expand Japan's diplomacy toward

the Soviet Union, Asia and the

He said he would focus atten-

Tokyo and Moscow never

signed a peace treaty officially

ending hosolities after World

War II, largely because of their

oon on increasing Japan's con-tributions to world peace, cultu-

ral exchanges and economic

Pacific region.

Jan. 2, about the withdrawal of visit to Islamabad for the South Asian leaders' meeting. Following these discussions In-

dia had decided to make the announcement Sunday about the withdrawal simultaneously in Colombo and New Delhi,

The statement said that with the setting up recently of a semiautonomous provincial council in the north and east and the devolution of powers to the council some troops had been withdrawn since the end of November.

Another two battalions will be withdrawn in the coming few days," Dixit said quoting the statement.

The statement said that as the situation in the north and east improves further and as the fighting potendal of the rebels is reduced "the government (of In-dia) is hopeful of making further withdrawals in consultation with the Sri Lankan government.

"I believe the atmosphere is ripe for a visit, and I sincerely hope Gorbachev will make a visit

Takeshita said he was looking forward to an early meeting with U.S. President-elect George Bush in Washington, hut said it would be difficult this month because of the two countries' poli-

Takeshita takes blame for cabinet resignations "I am solely to hlame for four ministers resigning," Takeshita said. "Somehow we have to re-

Soviet, Foreign Minister Ednard Shevardnadze visited Japan last month, and while the two sides did not reach agreement on the disputed islands, they agreed to discuss the issue

to Japan within the year.' Takeshita told the news conference at his official residence.

territorial dispute over a group of Soviet-held islands off northern tical schedules. **World leaders exchange** New Year messages

NEW YORK (R) — The leaders of the superpowers exchanged warm New Year's greetings as people around the world ushered

1989. President Reagan and Soviet eader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday hailed the improved ties between their nations and voiced bopes that relations will continue to warm next year.

Other world figures, among them the Pope and the leaders of France, Nicaragua, Poland and South Korea, expresed bopes that 1989 would be a year of compassion and reconciliation. On Saturday evening, hours

after the clocks had struck 12 elsewhere in the world, New Yorchampagne hottles to Times terrand, in a speech from Stras-Square to wait for the white neon bourg, seat of the European Parball to drop, welcoming 1989 to liament, urged the European the United States.

Pope John Paul, Saturday led a of growth.

service in Rome's Main Jesuit Church, the Baroque Church of Jesus, and called for more compassion for the homeless and AIDS victims in Rome. In Seoul, South Korean presi-

dent Roh Tae-Woo said the two Koreas could tear down the "wall of confrontation" in 1989 and achieve reunification of the peninsula by the end of the cen-In Warsaw, Poland's Commun-

ist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski said the need for national reconciliation was becoming more urgent and he left the door open for compromise with Solidarity.

Community to make 1989 a year

pared for a change in mem-

Negnoadons were to continue next week on creating the peacekeeping force, the U.N. Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG), which is to he in place before April 1.

was deployed in the Congo from

Besides the United States and the Soviet Union, the other permanent council members are Britain, China and France, all with vetn power over any resolution. Other council members are Brazil, Italy, Japan, West Germany, Algeria, Argentina, Nep-al, Senegal, Yugoslavia and

council members.

U.S. Ambassador Patricia M.

asures," in the force. "We were ready to go," she said, "hut then the non-aligned group presented new amendments." She did not specify them.

directing the secretary-general to

"identify tangihle-cost-saving me-

hut other diplomats said the amendments countered efforts at cost-cutting. "There was not enough time to

handle them on this sad New Year's Eve." Byrne said, "So we have to consider them Tuesday." British Amhassador Sir Crispen Tickell told reporters after

consultations, "it's a great tragedy that the rest of the council couldn't make the effort we made to vote for the resolution." He said the Non-Aligned Movement wanted major changes about how much money this

"weakened the language" of cost-

Davis creates on film set

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Patience is the key to working with egendary actress Bette Davis. whose unexpected comings-andgoings on the set of the film "Wicked Stepmother" have created a stir, says the movie's producer-director. "She's 80 and you have to be padent with ber because you do get a great performance and it is Bette Davis," Larry Coben said. "Everything's amicable. She's coming back." Cohen said in an interview last week. Miss Davis left Los Angeles just as filming was beginning on "Wicked Stepmother. Besides, Cohen said of the stir caused hy her departure, "any publicity is good publicity." "It was hasically a health problem. If you're not feeling well and things are hothering you — like dental problems — it's hard to work. Now that that's been taken care of, she's coming hack.

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Picasso museum to reopen March 1

PARIS (AP) - The Picasso museum, home for the past three years to nearly 3.500 works hy Pahlo Picasso, is closing to the public for two months for repairs, a museum spokesman said. The refurhished 17th century mansion, known as the Hntel Sale after one of its former owners, opened as a museum in 1985 with the world's largest collection of works by the Spanish master who died in 1973. The 203 paintings, 158 sculptures and 3,000 drawings were taken by the French government from Picasso's heirs in lieu of death taxes, along with works hy Matisse, Cezanne, Braque and Renoir in the artist's private collection. A spokesman said that the repairs involved replacing the building's stone floors, which had proven "too porous and fragile," to handle traffic from some 40,000 visitors monthly. The museum is to reopen March 1.

The Star Trek saga continues

LOS ANGELES (AP) — William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and other starship enterprise crew members gathered in Hollywood to toast completion of nearly all filming for the movie "Star Trek V: The Final Frontier." With only a few special-effects sequences left to be filmed, cast members sipped a mixture of champagne and green melon liqueur. Joining Shatner, wbo plays Captain James T. Kirk, and Nimoy, who plays Mr. Spock, were deforrest Kelly (Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy), Walter Koenig (Ensign Pavel Che-kov) and James Doohan (Engineer Montgomery "Scotty" Scott). The subtitle, "The Final Frontier," does not mean that it's time end of the voyages of the enterprise. Doohan says the actors have been signed up for 'Star Trek VI," and that the producer's services bave been enlisted all the way to "Star Trek

China screens sexy scenes

PEKING (AP) — Communist China's first officially approved movie with sex scenes has been screened to sell-out crowds in Canton, the China News Service said Tuesday. "Widows' village" is about the experiences of three young couples in a fishing village lead the inquiry into Ramon Garhefore and after the Communist victory in 1949. The film's director has recommended that children not watch it, the official report said. It said the movie 'required some special scenes showing couples' lovemaking,' hut didn't elahorate on how graphic the scenes were or why they were necessary to the plot. It said the story dealt with the conples' experiences "under the influence of strange marriage customs," but gave no details.

Woman to inhabit cave for 5 months

NEW MEXICO (AP) - An Italian researcher will spend the first five months of 1989 sealed in a cave without seeing or hearing another person in an experiment designed to simulate a long space flight. Stefania Folini, 27, a member of a research team based in Ancona, Italy, is to descend Sunday into lost cave in southeast Carlsbad, officials said. "It will be in complete isolation from the outside world," said Jim Goodbar, a cave specialist with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management in Carlsbad. "Her only communication with the outside world will be via computer." The purpose of the experiment is to simulate a long space flight, said Ron Kerbo, a cave specialist for Carlshad Caverns National Park. "What that does to you psychologically and physically is not known," he said.

Armenia's holiday season has never been so sad Red Cross workers drove in a MOSCOW (AP) - Toys, jam, northwestern Armenia in the fleet of Australian, West Gersouthern Soviet Union. A 40-day

clothes and other gifts poured into Armenia for survivors of the earthquake that killed an esti-mated 25,000 people, but the tradioonal New Year's glee was missing, a news report said Saturday.
In a dispatch from the Arme-

A Santa Claus and a little Christmas tree were set

up on top of the wall in front of the Leninakan

nian capital of Yerevan, the official Soviet news agency TASS said: "Never before had Armenian children received so many new year's gifts from Father Frost and Santa Claus from all over the world. And never before was this favonrite children's holiday so

An undetermined number of children were left orphans by the Dec. 7 earthquake that ravaged

period of mourning was declared. so the traditional New Year's spirit was missing, TASS reported. "Thousands of people come

these days to Yerevan hospitals and clinics hringing for the quake survivors toys, jams, fruits, sweets and clothes," the news agency said. An Internacional Red Cross

official reported from Yerevan to his home office in Geneva that volunteers made sure that all 4,500 hospitalised earthquake victims received tradioonal New

A group of Armenian, British, whn hrings gifts during New ussian, Finnish and Hungarian Year's to Soviet citizens. Russian, Finnish and Hungarian

Security Council disagrees on peace forces in Namibia said the five permanent members were ready to adopt a resolution

library which was completely destruyed by the

man, and Soviet vehicles to help

distribute the gifts, said George Reid of the League of Nadonal

Red Cross and Red Crescent

Dolls and Teddy bears were

among the presents distributed to

the children at Yerevan's trauma-

tnlogical hospital. Reid reported,

while adult patients got gifts shipped in hy the British Red Cross.

TASS said its reporter asked

nne hoy whose mother was killed

in the quake in the city of Spitak

what he wanted from Father

Frost, the mythical, hearded man

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council failed bership in 1989. Saturday to create the biggest U.N. peacekeeping force in 25 years as the United States, the Soviet Union and other powers clashed with the Non-Aligned Movement over the cost of the Namihia operadon.

In an 11th-hour attempt to usher in the New Year with the latest U.N. peacekeeping success, the five permanent council members who will pay most of the bill tried to slash the cost of \$700 million for the 9,500-man, force to oversee Namibia's transition to independence from South

But the Non-Aligned Movement, which has six members on the 15-nation council, opposed the move and said the force should not be reduced, to prevent elections by South Africa.

After a week of negodadons and two days of heated consultadons, the talks broke down Saturday afternoon as the council pre-

It will be the biggest force since the 19,800-man U.N. contingent

1960 to 1964.

It was the latest case of rare unity among the five permanent tween the Soviet Union and the United States, which now enjoy better relacions.

Byrne, deputy representative,

to cost and the basis on which it will take place." Their proposed changes, he said, would bave

Opposition demonstrators dispersed in Mexico Campeche. But leading Mexico mayor, who takes office Jan. 1.

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Police Saturday used tear gas to end a month-long opposition sit-in at a city hall in Campeche state.

sidies to keep them afloat. The government essentially fol-News reports said several delows guidelines set by the party monstrators were injured, missing or detained. bodics that must themselves

struggle for a consensus before Meanwhile, in the michoacan state capital of Morelia, opposi-tion activists voluntarily ended a any policies can be implemented. Since the Mikulic government took office in 1986, the country's sit-in, their second in a month, inflation rate has trebled and the government newspaper El living standards have plummeted. Nacional said. In 1988 alone, the average

The demonstrations were part of a wave of election fraud protests by the left-of-centre Naconal Democratic Front that have rippled across Mexico since the disputed July 6 presidential elec-The government newspaper

said nothing about the violence in

City papers such as excelsior, El Universal and La Jornada ran the story on the front page.

They said police reportedly fired guns and tear gas grenades in the pre-dawn hours to roust demonstrators at the city hall in the small town of Candelaria. The reports said opposition

spokesman reported a number of people were missing, arrested or injured in the police assault. Excelsior said Candelaria resi-

dents reported seeing women and children fleeing down the street. El Universal said some tried to

reigns. He said police used tear gas.

lawless city.

seek refuge in a nearby church. Candelaria Mayor Enrique Razo Urbie told the Associated Press that one police officer suffered a minor gunshot wound and

"With absolute assurance I can say that no one was injured, no one was detained and no one was killed,"he said in a telephone interview. "The people of the town are happy and tranquility

but the only shots were fired hy demonstrators. Razo Urbie said the opposition

had been occupying city hall since the end of November, turning Candelaria "practically into a Candelaria is a ranching town of 15,000 located about 40

kilometres southeast of the state capital of Campeche, a port city on the Gulf of Mexico.

The opposition claims the new

was elected through fraud perpetrated hy the ruling Insotutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. The PRI, which has ruled Mex-

accused of rigging the presiden-. dal election and subsequent state elections. The party denies the charges.

Missing investigated

A jurist and buman rights activist has been appointed special invesogator to look into the disappearance of an opposition leader in Morelos state who vanished two weeks ago, news reports said Saturday.

The case of Jose Ramon Garcia, a member of the Democracic cia's disappearance.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Reform Movement led by former presidential candidate Cuahtemoc Cardenas, has attracted internadonal attention.

Ramon Garcia, an opposition ico since 1929, also has heen mayoral candidate in May. vanished on the afternoon of Dec. 16, his family and authorities say. Cardenas has called on the

authorities to resolve the case and said that he, too, feared it was political

Local officials have denied any involvement by police or other agents of the government. Gov. Antonio Riva Palacio Friday named jurist and human rights activist Raul Carranca Y Rivas as special investigator to

Chinese police break up African students protest PEKING (R) - Hundreds of

Chinese police armed with electric prods and batons stormed a guest house where African students had barricaded themselves, forcing some of them hack to their campuses inthe city Nanking.

African students contacted by telephone from Peking Sunday said that police beat some of the students before they were loaded on huses and taken away Saturday. "We didn't want to go. Some

students were beaten," said an African who asked not to be further identified. "I walked out

and I was not hit. Some of us had our hands up in the air." Other students who had re-

monthly salary dropped from the

equivalent of \$105 to \$87, accord-

amid a chorus of demands for

fundamental political and econo-

mic changes also have plauged

A record number of strikes

ing 10 official statistics.

turned to their campuses said there were no reports of serious injuries hut police appeared to single out eight or nine people alleged to be involved in a campus clash on Christmas Eve. Students said that Saturday

afternoan about 300 police and plainclothes security men moved into the guest bouse near the east China city of Nanking where African and other foreign students had been since Monday. The Africans had been brought there Monday after violence

flared on three Nanking campuses where they had been studying. "They divided us into small groups," said a student. "We

were kept waiting outside while

they told us about the law and our

poor hehaviour." Five hours later they were put on buses. About 20 have returned to their universities but the whereabouts of more than 100 others was unclear.

cial said that some of the students were still at the guest house. Liang Ruiju, head of Hehai Univerisity, had described the guest

A provincial government offi-

dom" where Africans had refused to let Chinese enter. He called on the government to deal with the

In the worst incident, more than 2,000 students, some shouting "down with black devils" attacked African at Hehai University a week ago after a clash at a university dance.

Thirteen people were injured in the clash, according to the official Chinese media.

Chinese students took to the street in four days of protests last week, demanding stern punishment for Africans involved.

TOKYO (AP) — Emperor Hirohito's condition

tonk a turn for the worse Sunday, and his heir presided over the annual New Year's ceremony at the Imperial palace. Palace officials said the emperor discharged a "substantial amount of hlood" through his bowels early Sunday and doctors administered 400 cubic centimetres of blood in a transfusion.

Hirohito's condition worsens

Eritreans agree to negotiate

KHARTOUM (AP) - An Eritrean rebel group has agreed to talk unconditionally with the Ethiopian government about ending a 26-year-old rebellion against the Marxist-led east African government, the Sudanese newspaper Al Siyassa reported Sunday. Omar Al Reyb, executive committee chairman of the Eritrean Liberacon Front-Unified Organisation, said Sudan proposed the negotiations after a recent visit to Khartoum by an Ethiopian delegation, Al Siyassa said. The paper quoted Reyh as saying he met Saturday with Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi about the idea.

dent Ferdinand Marcos is expected to stay in the hospital for at least a few more days, said a hospital spokeswoman. Marcos, 71, who is being treated for congestive beart failure, was reported in satisfactory condition Saturday at St. Francis Medical Centre.

Kim II Sung invites Roh

TOKYO (AP) - North Korean President Kim II Sung Sunday invited South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo and six other poliocal and religious leaders from Seoul to a political conference in the near future. Pyongyang's official media reported. The Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, said Kim proposed a "Political consultarive meeting of leadership-level people from North and South" to discuss the reunification of Korea. Kim's proposal came in a New Year speech in which he did not name Roh but invited him as president of the governing democratic justice

100 injured at midnight

LONDON (AP) — As Big Ben struck midnight, an estimated 100,000 New Year's revelers jammed London's Trafalgar Square Sunday to ring in 1989, police said. Scotland Yard said the turnout was the largest since violent new year revels six years ago, when two women were killed in a surging crowd in the Central London Square, the traditional focal point of celebrations in the capital. Police arrested 88 people for various public order offences.

3 poachers killed in Zimbabwe

HARARE (R) - Game wardens guarding Zimhabwe's dwindling black Rhino population killed three poachers in a shoot-out in the Zambezi valley Saturday, police said. A rifle and several rounds of ammunition were found at the scene and a fourth poacher escaped, they added.

house as "an independent king-Ortega: Reagan terrorist, obsessed

MANAGUA (AP) - President Daniel Ortega blamed the United States, capitalism, and burricane Joan for Nicaragua's shattered economy in his year-end speech to the nation Saturday and rejected new talks with the rebels.

Ortega also was quoted Saturday as saving astronomical inflaoon will get worse before it gets better. Nicaragua suffers 21,000 per

cent inflation, one of the highest

rates in the world, Ortega was quoted as saying. "While we are

in war, the inflation will continue

to rise," Ortega told Barricada,

the official newspaper of the rul-

ing Sandinista Party. U.S.-hacked rebels known as

contras have been trying to oust the leftist government of Nicaragua since 1981, two years after the revolution in which the Sandinistas took power from the rightist Somoza family dictatorship. Most of the Sandinistas' promises of a more just society remain

unfulfilled because of poor eco-

nomic management and the war,

which Ortega says has killed

29,113 people and done more

than \$12 billion in economic

A cease-fire and cutoff of U.S. military aid to the rebels bave reduced fighting to small skir-mishes most of this year, but talks on a permanent peace broke

down in September. In his nationally broadcast speech to diplomats, state workers, and others at a military school in the capital. Ortega rejected the latest contra proposals for peace talks, including one for a January round in Washington.

"This is an unburied monster,"

he said of the rebels. "It gives off

a stench in all directions. It tosses

out one recking proposal here

and another there. One can't tell which is from the United States. which ultimately is the one that arms this monster and doesn't know where to bury it or bow to But he also said the Sandinistas

cease-fire another month and that Nicaragua is ready to "look for ways to coexist with the enemies of the revolution." Ortega ended his two-hour speech with a tirade against U.S. President Ronald Reagan, de-

scribing him as a "terrorist" and

Marcos remains in hospitai were unilaterally extending the

HONOLULU (AP) - Former Philippine Presi-

draft. Lib 80331